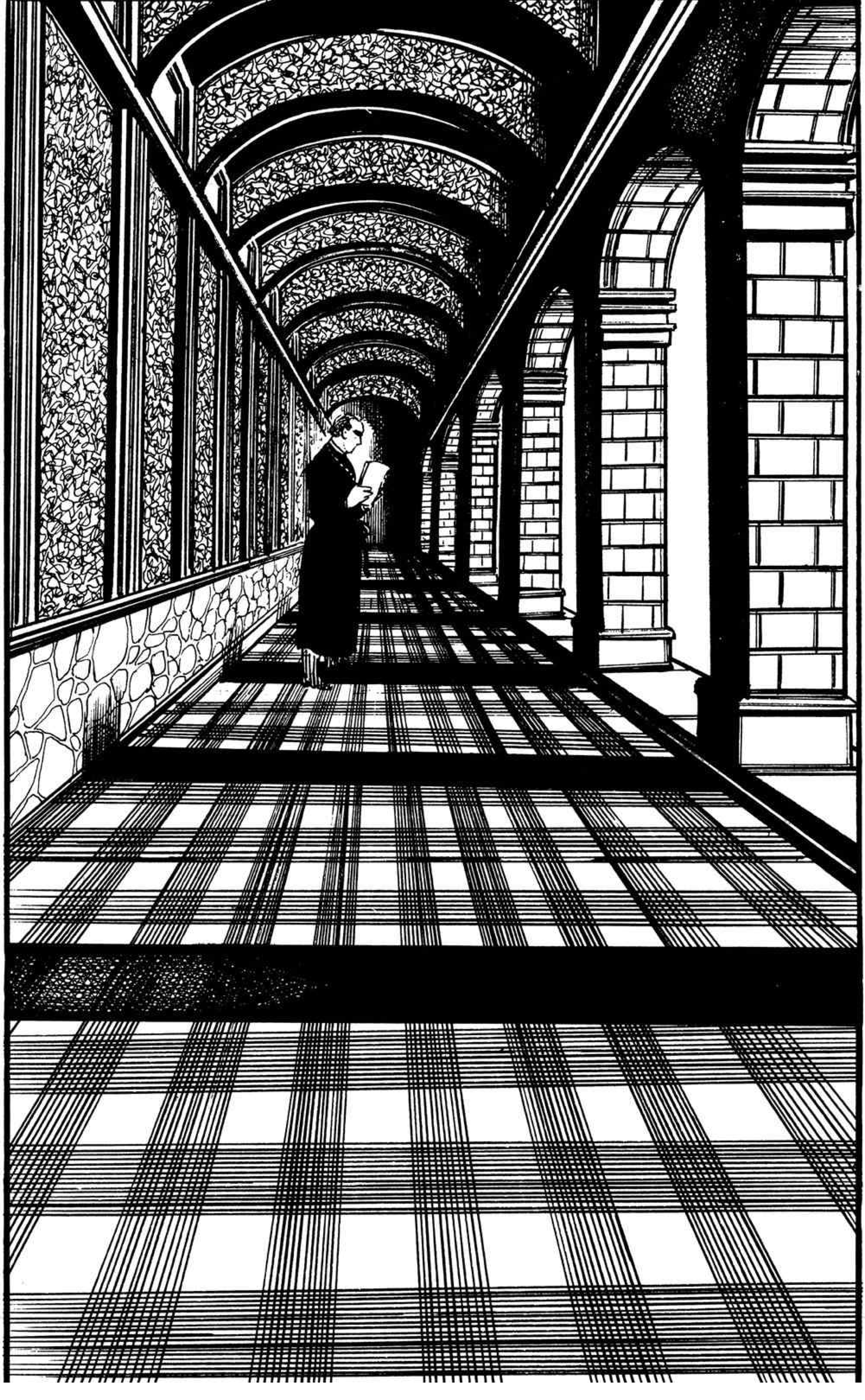
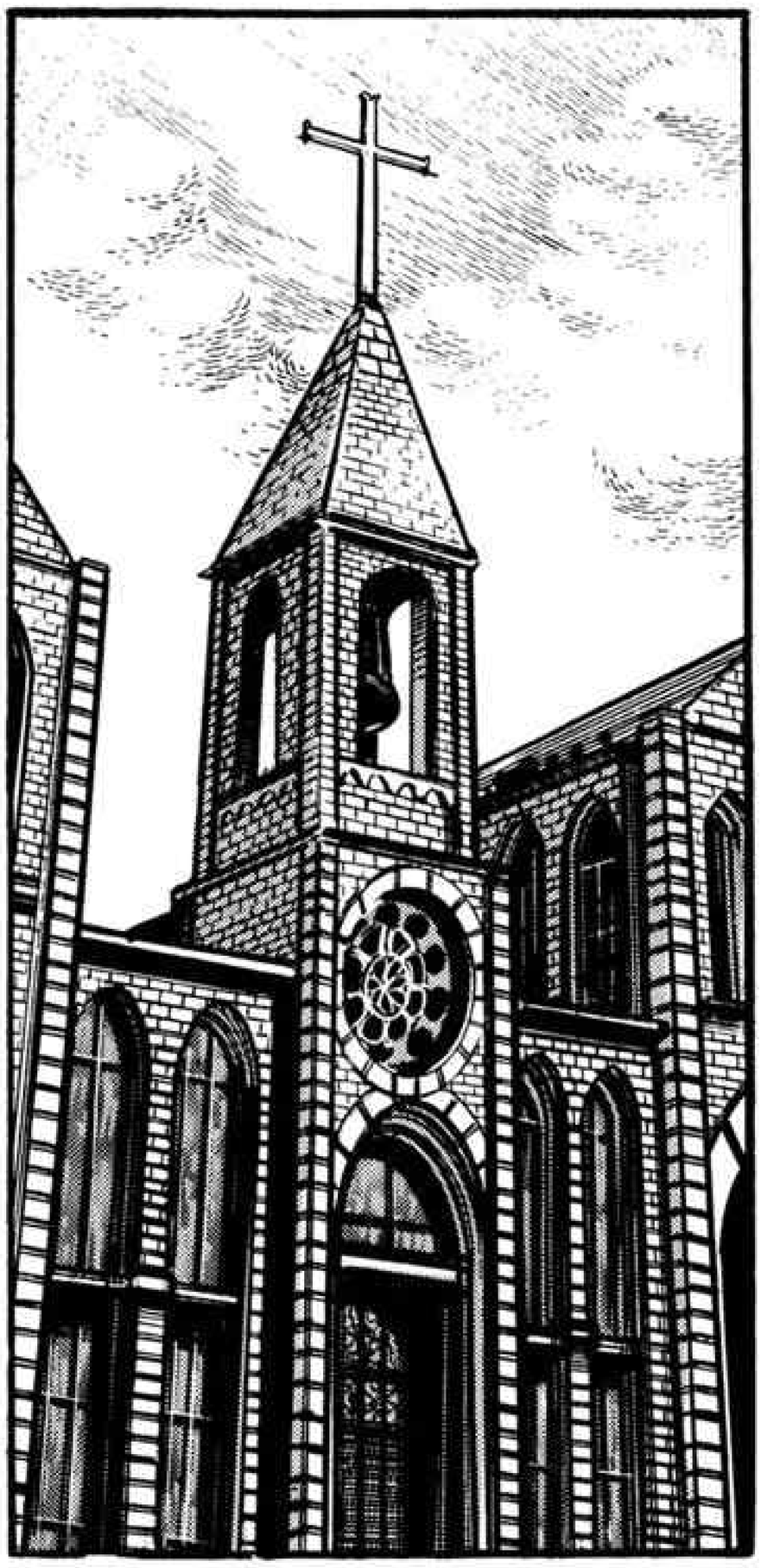
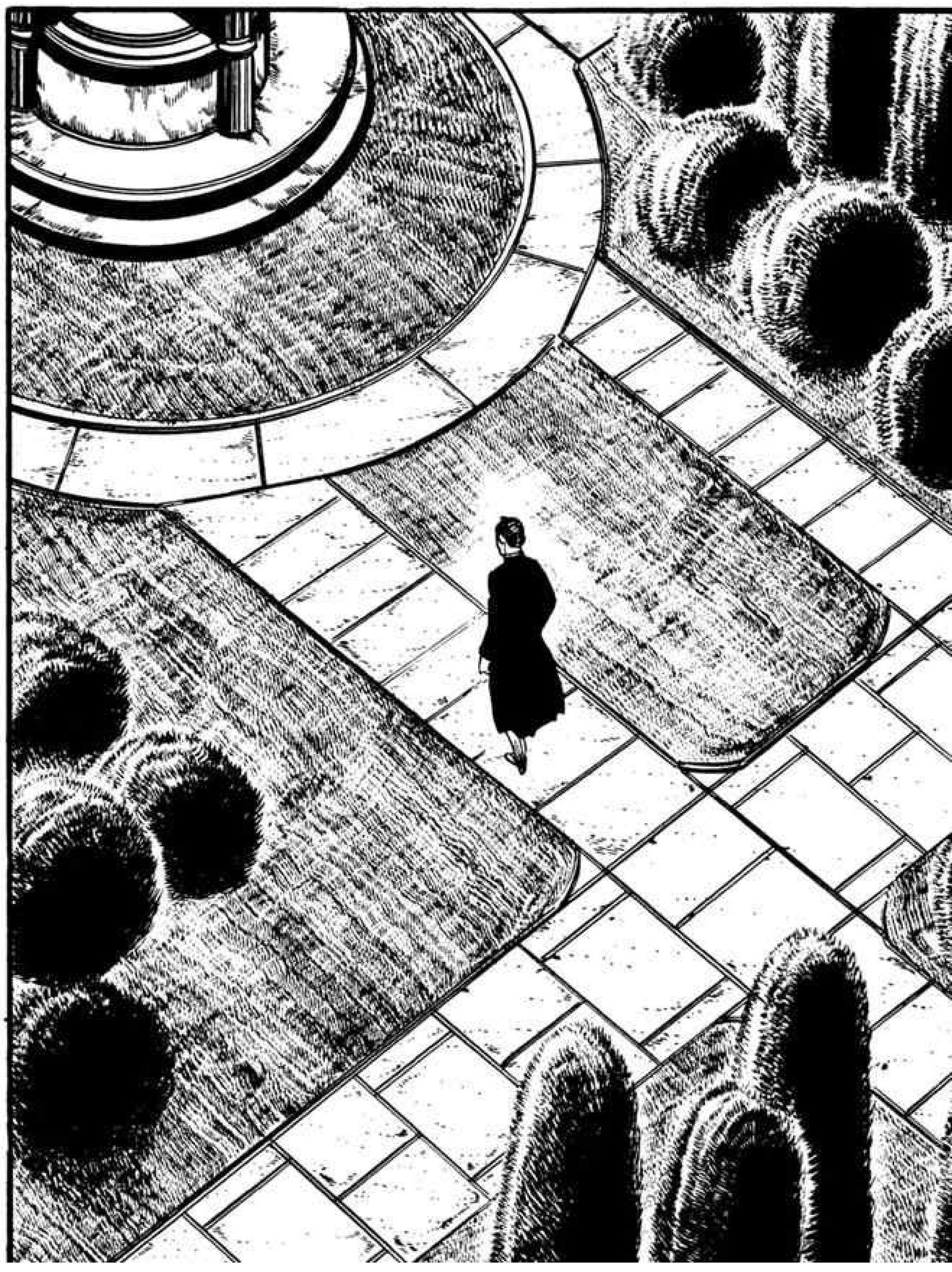
GRAVESTONE IN SICILY





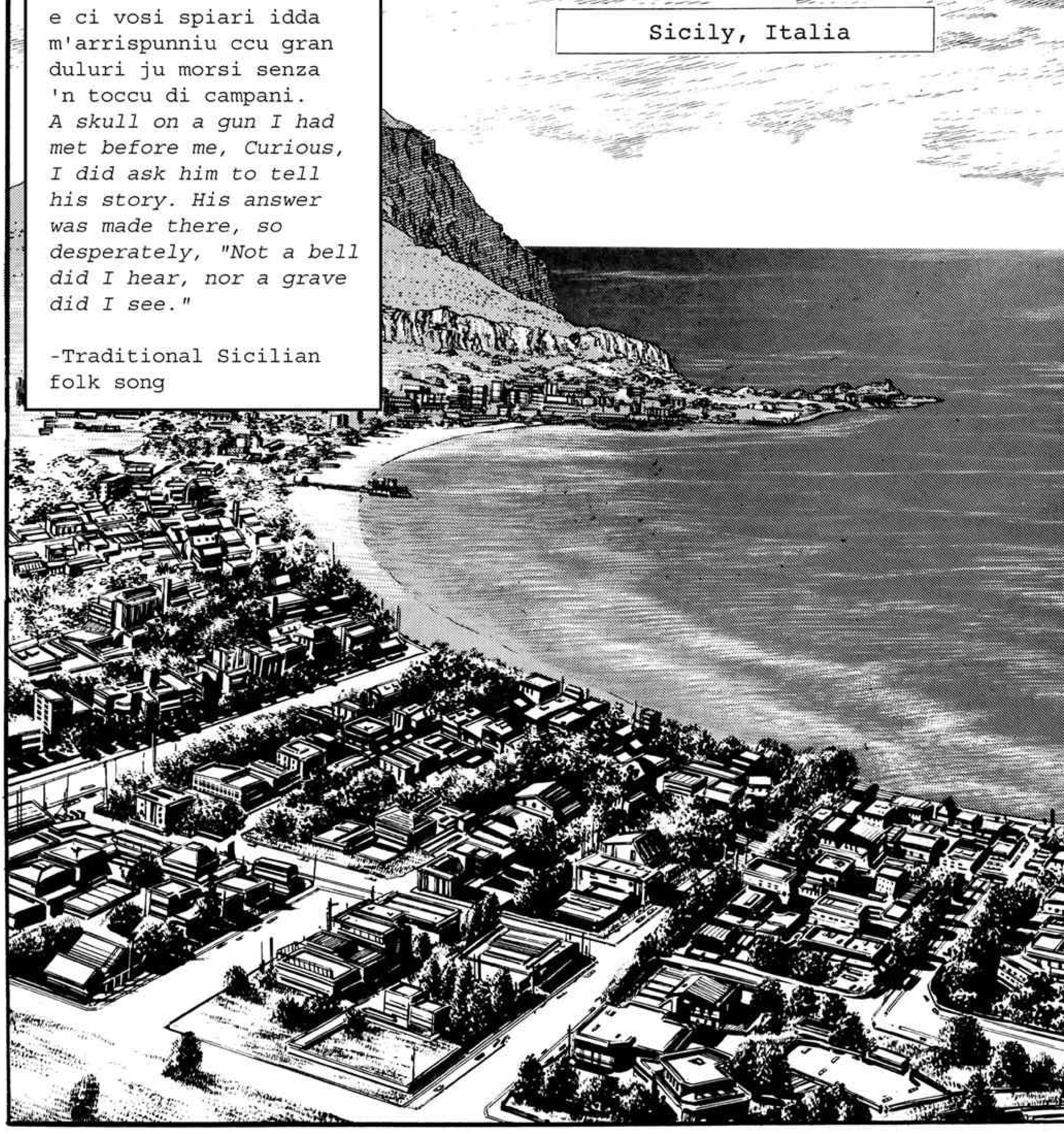


PART 1 THE PRIEST RETURNS

Vita 'na crozza supra a 'nu cannuni fui curiusu e ci vosi spiari idda m'arrispunniu ccu gran duluri ju morsi senza 'n toccu di campani.
A skull on a gun I had met before me, Curious, I did ask him to tell his story. His answer was made there, so desperately, "Not a bell did I hear, nor a grave did I see."

-Traditional Sicilian folk song

Sicily, Italia



Port of Palermo

IT'S ONLY OUR THING... *COSA NOSTRA.*

MI SCUSI, SIGNURI. YOU SEEM TO BE A STRANGER HERE. NO HARM IS INTENDED.

WHAT THE-- TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME!

WHAT IS THE MATTER ...?

...YOU TOO, FATHER.

COME, NOW...

.....

THERE'S CONCERN FOR THE VALENTINOS.

AH, THEN MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD.

SÌ, PRIZZI.

AMMUNÌ, PARRINU. YOU'RE FROM SICILY?

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

VITTORE AND TOMMASO VALENTINO...THE BROTHERS...?

VALENTINO...?

THEY'RE VISITING THE OLD COUNTRY, YOU SEE, AND WE'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF THEM.

THAT'S WHY WE'VE GOT TO DO OUR CHECK, FATHER.

BUT WHO KNOWS...PERHAPS SOMEONE WILL FOLLOW FROM THE U.S., MEANING THEM HARM.

THE BROTHERS. THEY GOT INTO A LITTLE TROUBLE IN CHICAGO, IT SEEMS, SO THEY'RE TAKING AN EXTENDED VACATION HERE IN SICILY.

I'VE JUST RETURNED FROM THE SEMINARY IN ROME...TO MINISTER HERE...

THERE ARE SOME SINFUL MEN ABOUT, FATHER.

TO MINISTER? *BONU.*

...LOOK, I'M A MAN OF *GOD!* I WOULD NEVER CARRY A WEAPON.

WHY WOULD...

YOU'RE ALL RIGHT. NOTHING IN HERE.

.....

WOLF AS A SHEEP. LIKE THE BIBLE, *NO?*

MAYBE EVEN KILLERS DRESSED AS PRIESTS.

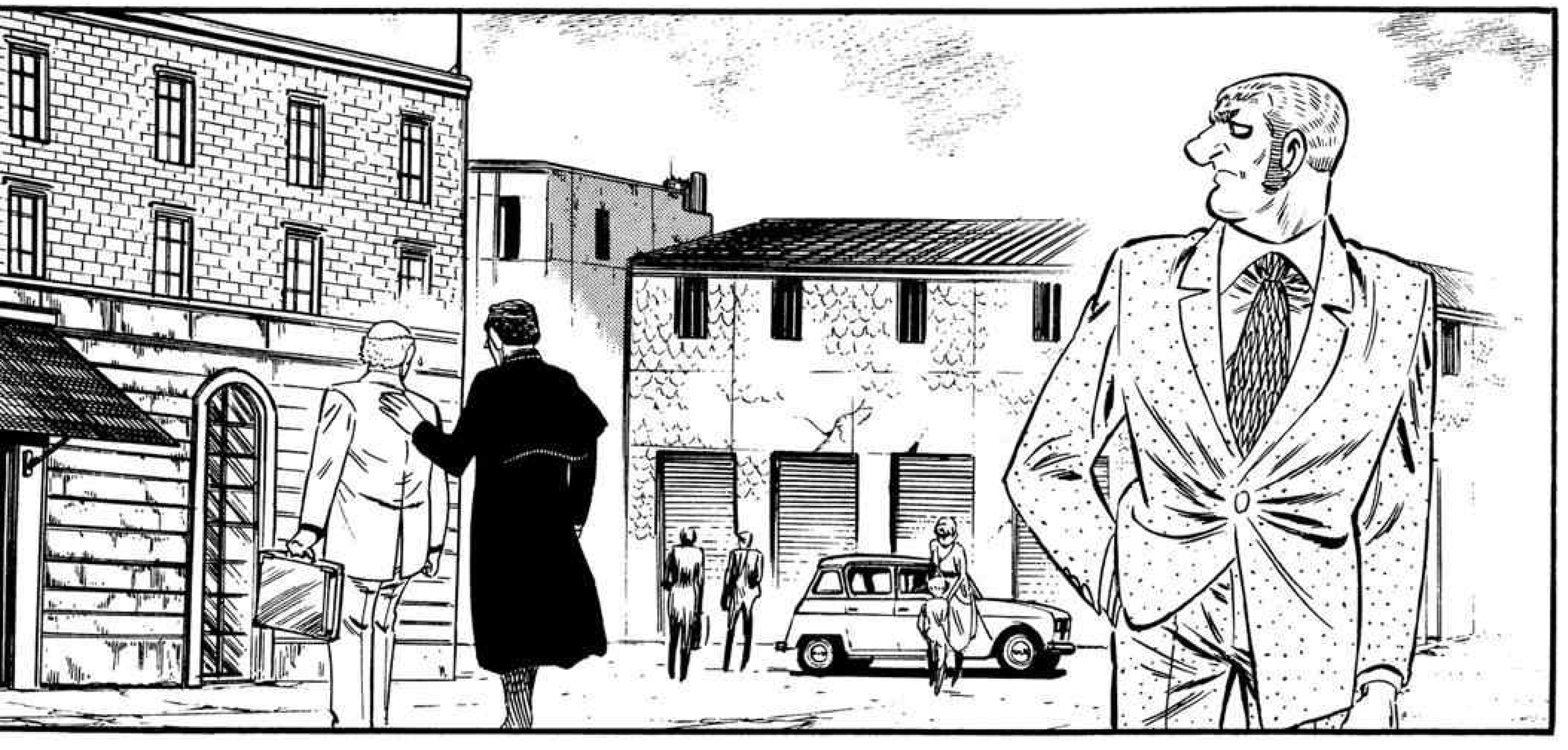
AH, PACO...

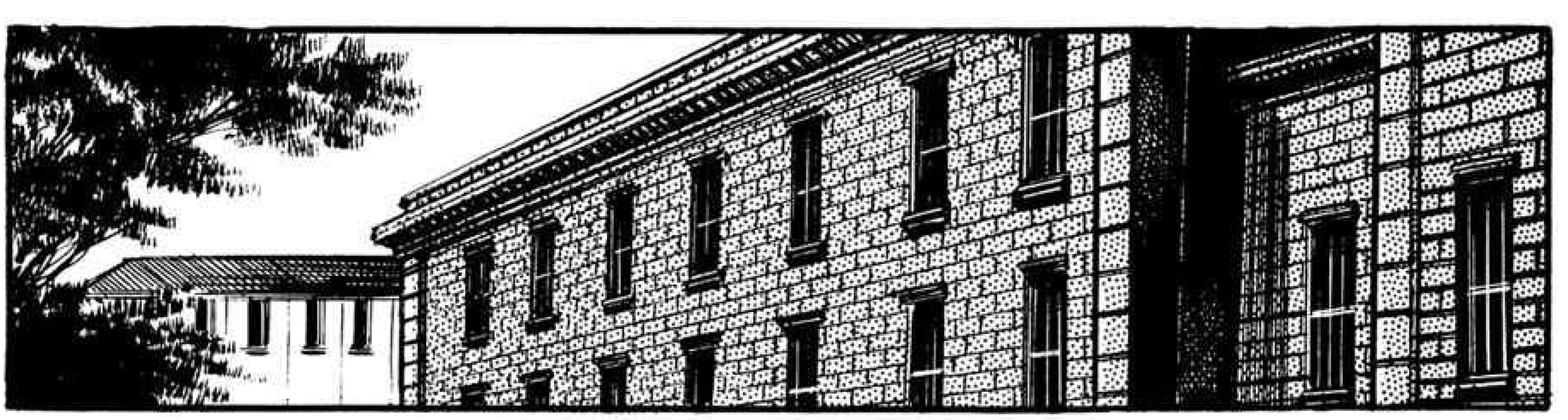
THANK GOD... YOU'RE HERE... SAFELY...

W-WELCOME HOME, MASTER SERGIO!

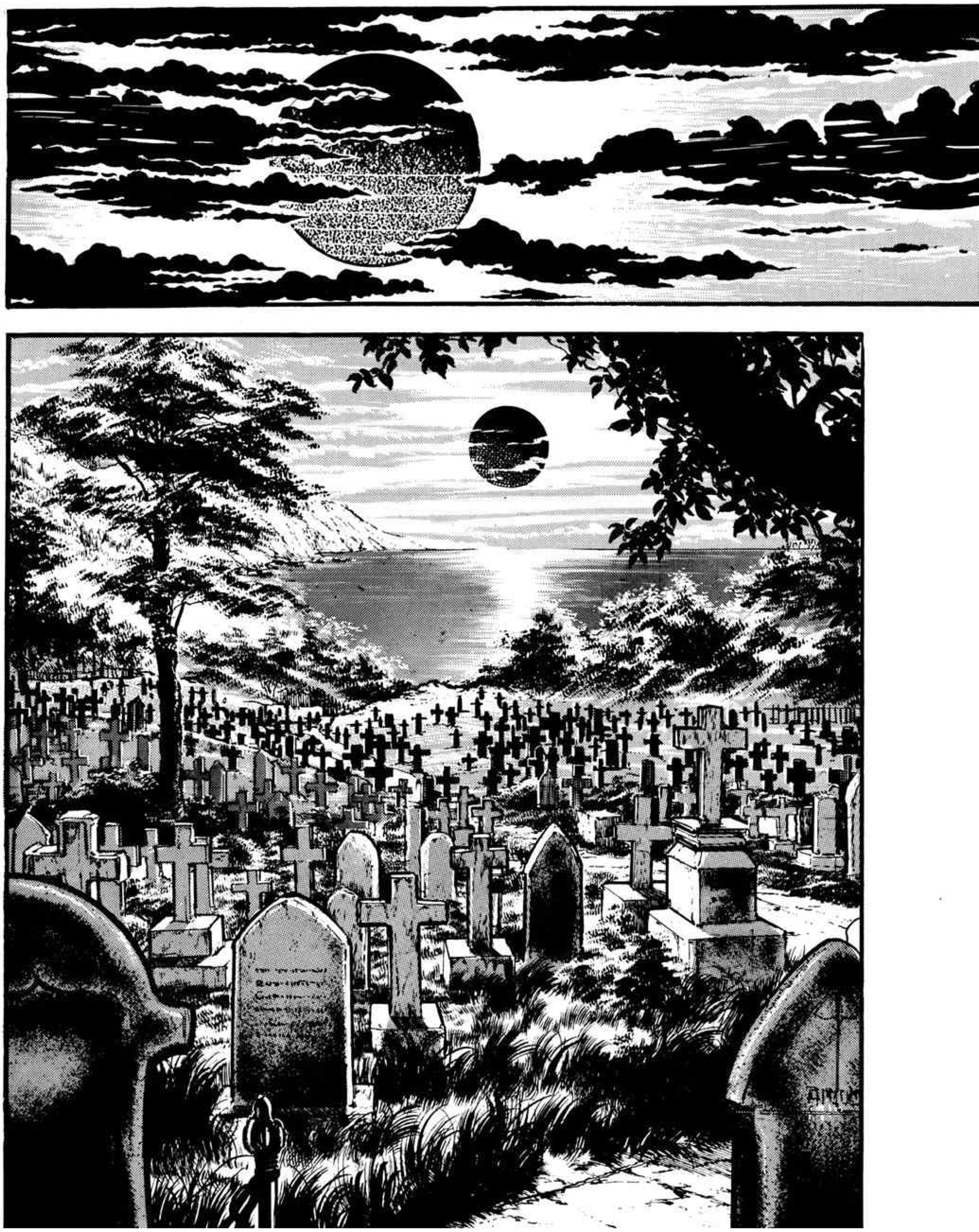
PACO!

Y-
YES...
SHALL WE GO?
YOU'RE TIRED. LET'S TALK LATER, MY FRIEND.





PART 2 SUNSET AT THE GRAVEYARD



HOW... HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

...IT ALL STARTED WHEN THE VALENTINOS CAME BACK.

IT'S JUST AS I TOLD YOU IN THE LETTER, MASTER ...

.....

...AND THE BATTLE HAS COME WITH THEM.

SO THEY RETURNED TO SICILY...

IN THE *PASTICCERIA* THEY SAY THEY LOST A POWER STRUGGLE IN CHICAGO. ALL THEIR TERRITORY, GONE TO DIFFERENT FAMILIES NOW.

IT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR THE AMERICAN FAMILIES. VITTORE AND TOMMASO ARE WATCHING FOR ANY ASSASSINS TO COME IN. THEY'VE BOUGHT THE POLICE AS WELL.

BUT THEY ESCAPED.

THE NEW YORK, DETROIT, AND MIAMI FACTIONS DIVVIED UP THE VALENTINO BUSINESS. THE BROTHERS THEMSELVES WERE MEANT TO BE KILLED, *DESTRUTTU.*

YOU KNOW VITTORE IS FRIENDS WITH THE CHIEF. THERE IS NO HONESTY ON THIS ISLAND, MASTER SERGIO.

SÌ, VALENTINO'S MEN ON THE DOCKS, AND THE *PULIZZIA* AT THE AIRPORT.

THE...THE POLICE?

.....

HE...HE HAD BEEN SHOT OVER SEVENTY TIMES...

A FISHERMAN... HE WAS IN THE WATERS OFF CASTELLAMMARE DEL GOLFO. IT WAS CRUEL...

.....

BISHOP MORETTI PREACHED AGAINST IT...

...GAMBLING.

THE VALENTINOS DECIDED TO MAKE A NEW FORTUNE IN THE OLD COUNTRY. THEY HAD IT ALL PLANNED OUT WITH THE AUTHORITIES. HOTELS, RESORTS FOR THE TOURISTS. BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY...

HOW DID THEY FIND HIM?

...IF HE COULD SEE YOU NOW, THE FINE P-PRIEST YOU'VE BECOME...

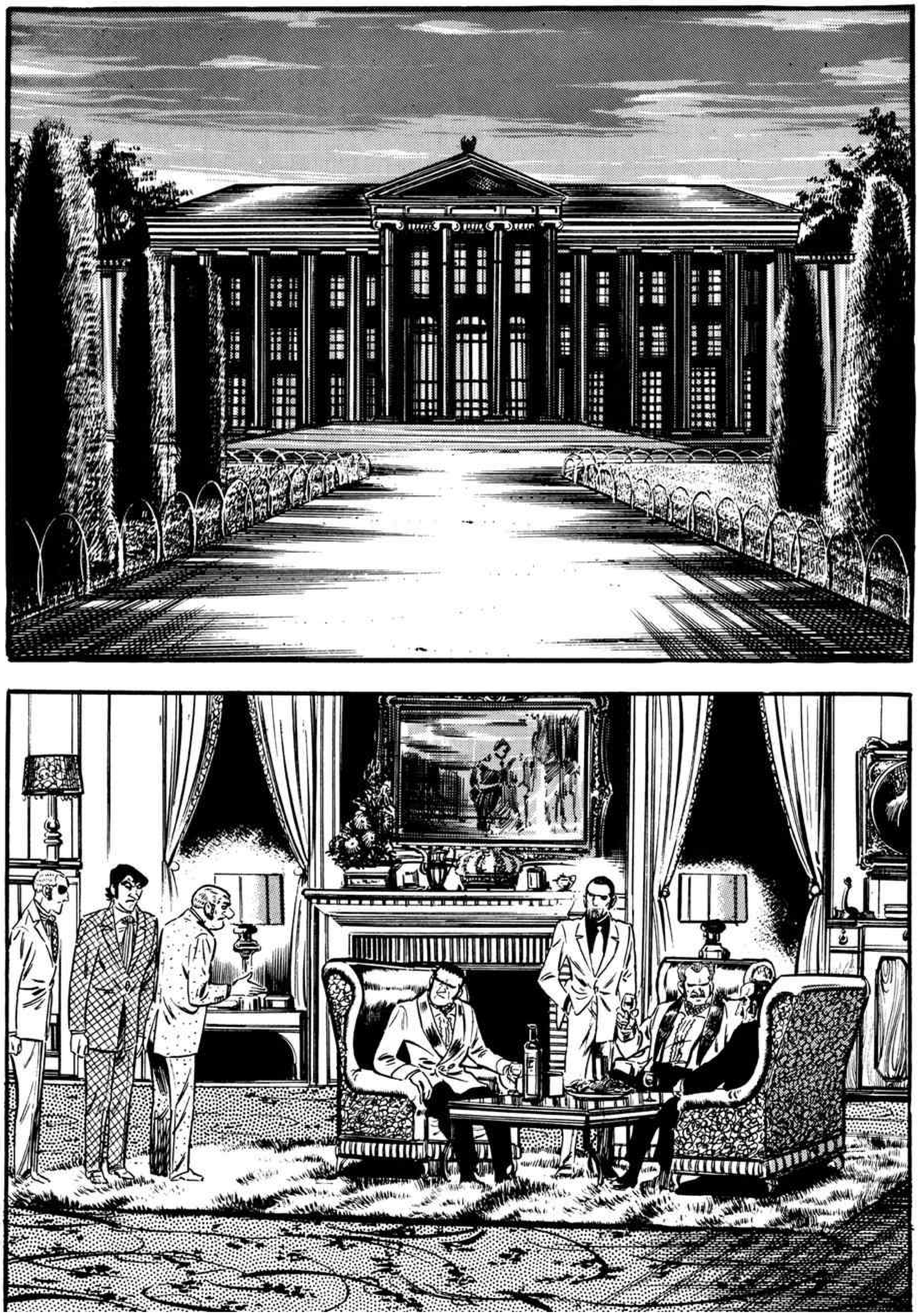
WHY? WHY THIS TO SUCH A MAN, SERGIO? HE TOOK YOU IN AS AN ORPHAN...HE SAW YOU WERE RAISED AN UPRIGHT BOY...

...

...

...HE'D BE PROUD.

PART 3 THE BROTHERS



...AND A PRIEST.

ONLY THOSE COMING HOME FROM JOBS TODAY, AND A FEW TOURISTS, DON VALEN-TINO...

AND AT THE PORT?

YEAH. FRESH OUT OF THE SEMINARY IN ROME, BUT WE SEARCHED HIM LIKE ALL THE OTHERS. NAME'S SERGIO MORETTI...

PRIEST?

I DIDN'T KNOW THE OLD MAN HAD ANY FAMILY...

EH?!

HE WAS ENZO MORETTI'S ADOPTED SON!

SERGIO MORETTI? ARE YOU SURE OF THAT?

SAID HE WAS JUST HERE TO PREACH. THE *CULLI* SEEMED A LITTLE SHOCKED THAT THERE'S GUNS AROUND HERE.

LOOK?

YOU WOULDN'T, HE'S BEEN AWAY FOR YEARS. WHAT DID HE SAY? HOW DID HE LOOK TO YOU?

HOLD IT, VITTORE...

...WELL, JUST AS LONG AS HE KEEPS HIS MOUTH SHUT, HE'LL BE NO BOTHER.

A PRIEST...

.....

"BLOOD FOR BLOOD"!!

...HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE LAW HERE IN SICILY IN YOUR LONG ABSENCE...?

TOO MUCH MONEY IS AT STAKE FOR YOU TO COME TO HARM.

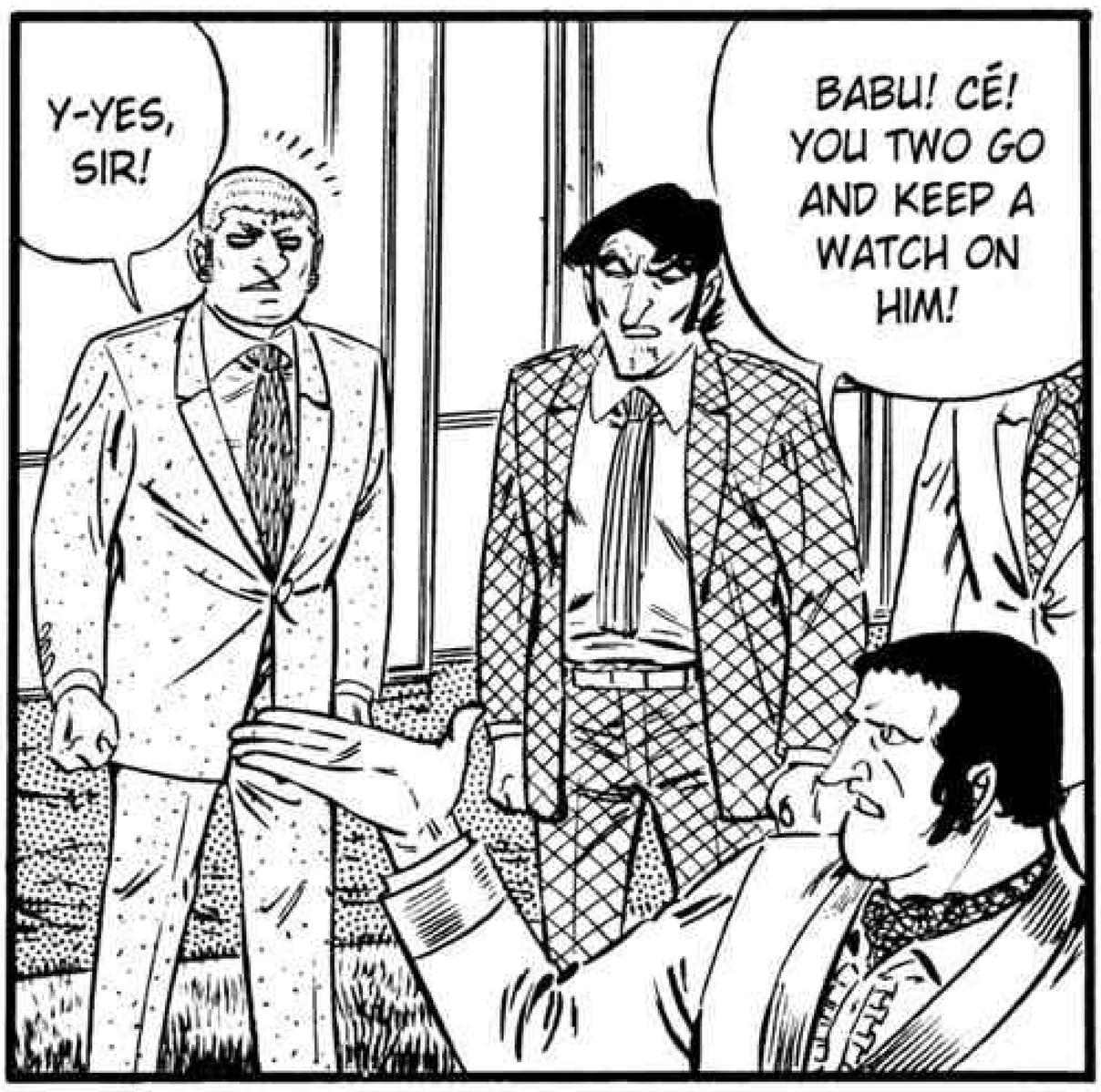
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH BEING CAUTIOUS. WE'VE REMOVED A BISHOP WHO WAS HERE FOR DECADES...IT'S NO TIME TO SCRUPLE AT SHOOTING A JUNIOR PRIEST.

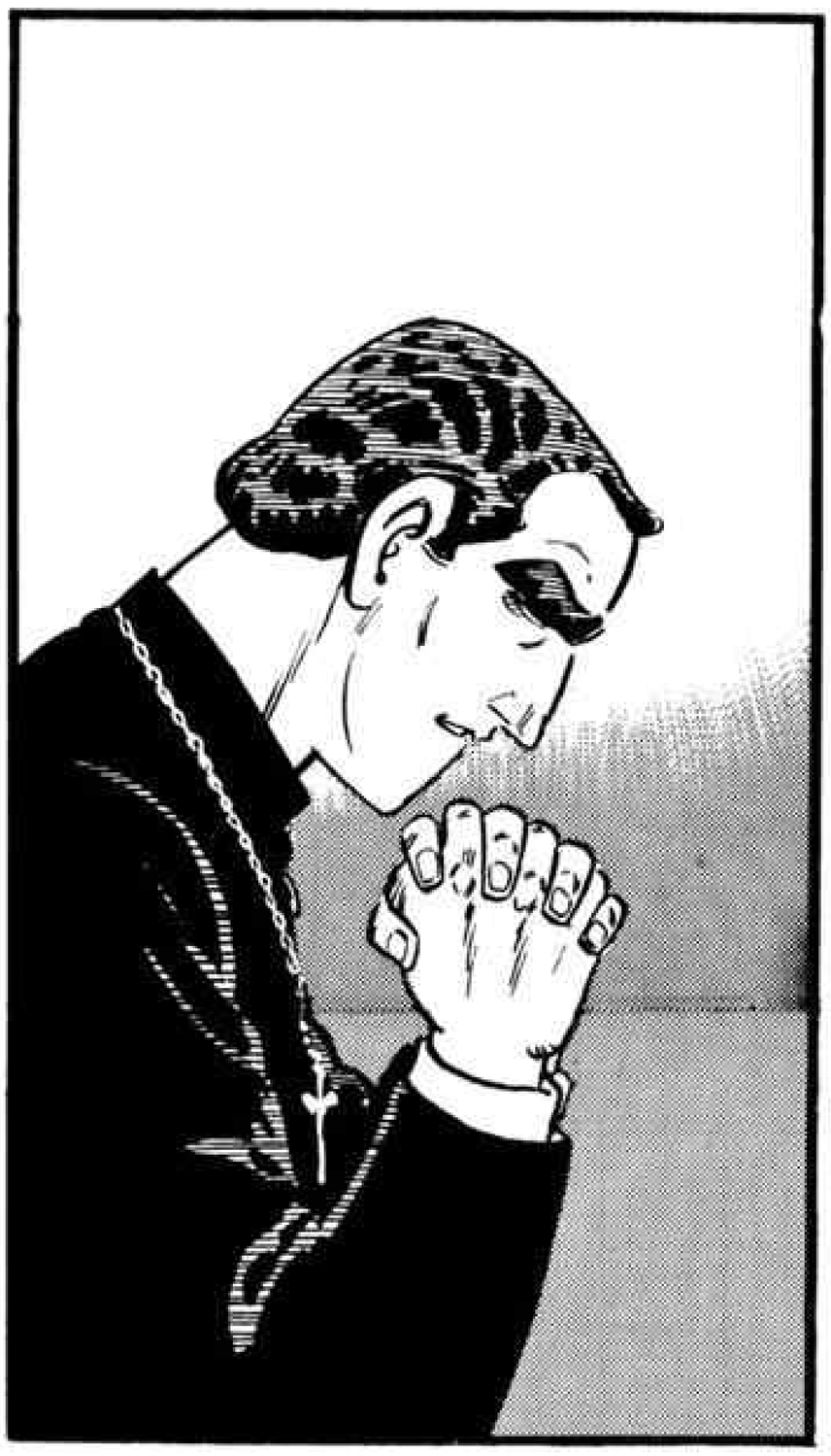
.....

ADOPTED OR NOT, ANY FAMILY OF THE BISHOP MEANS CONCERN FOR US. YOU BOYS UNDERSTAND THAT?

CHIEF ROSSI IS RIGHT.

UH...YES, DON.


Y-YES, SIR!
BABU! CÉ! YOU TWO GO AND KEEP A WATCH ON HIM!



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HE'S A PRIEST, HE'S PRAYING, *MERDA.*

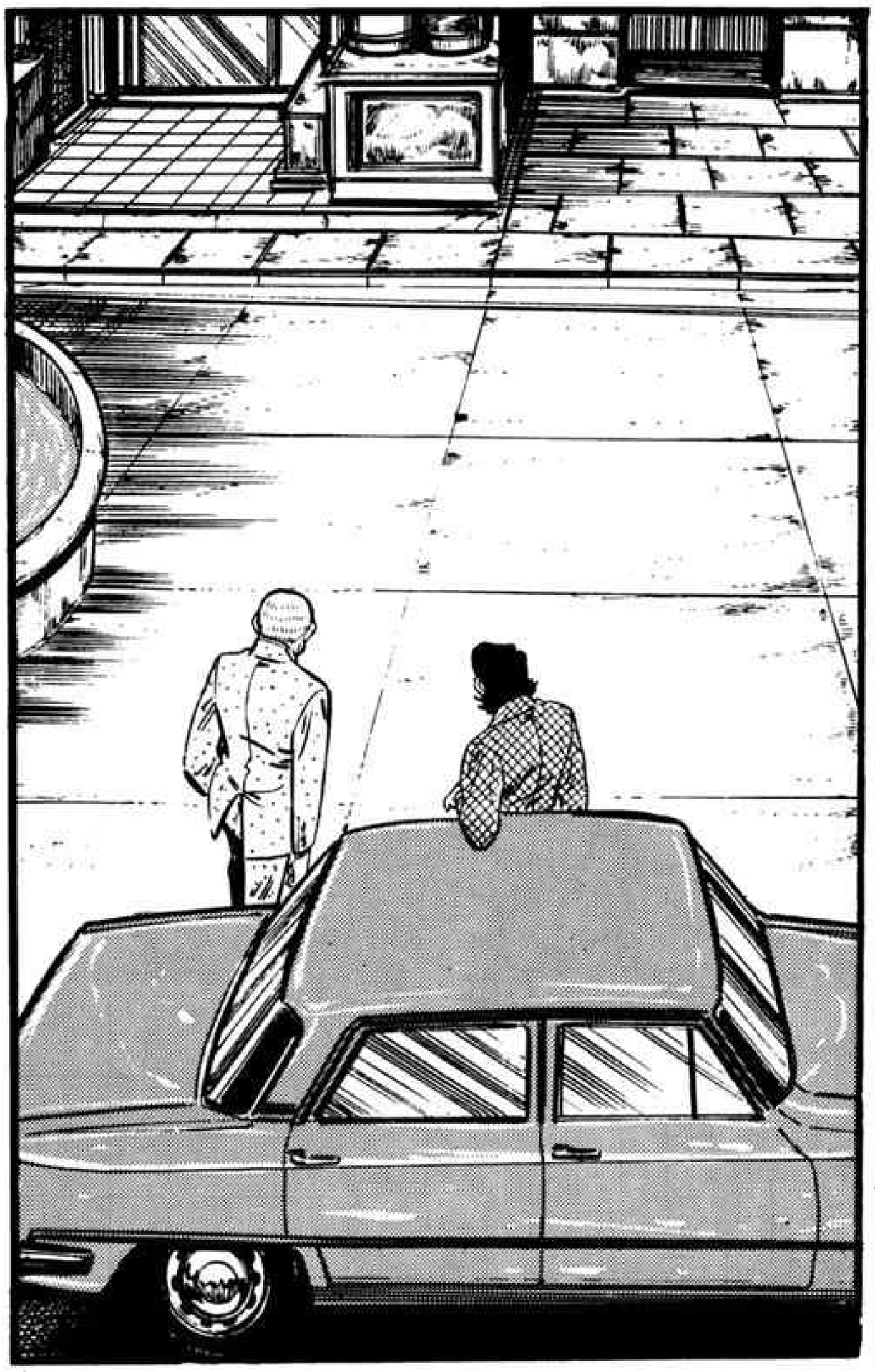
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?

WELL?

YOU KNOW WHAT MY GRANDFATHER USED TO SAY...?

..."PRAY WITH ONE HAND, SHIT IN THE OTHER...SEE WHICH ONE FILLS UP FIRST."

PART 4 AS GOD WILLS



LET'S SCARE HIM A BIT AND PISS OFF OUT OF HERE.
AND I WANT A SHOWER. ORDERS OR NO, I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
MORNING SERVICES! I JUST WANT *BREAKFAST!*

BUT I SAY TO YOU NOT TO RESIST EVIL: BUT IF ONE STRIKE THEE ON THY RIGHT CHEEK, TURN TO HIM ALSO THE OTHER. SO CHRIST SPOKE, BELOVED. TODAY, WE--

...YOU HAVE HEARD THAT IT HATH BEEN SAID, AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.

BRAVU, PARRINU!

I THINK IT'S THE RIGHT.

WHICH WAS IT? LEFT FIRST? NO, THE RIGHT.

...YOU WERE FAMILY TO THE FAMOUS BISHOP...?

SO DID YOU TELL THEM...

MORETTI... NOW THAT'S A COMMON NAME, FATHER.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

.....

WE JUST HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK YOU.

HEY, FATHER, WE DON'T MEAN TO SCARE AWAY ALL YOUR LAMBS.

...I TOLD YOU WHEN I CAME... I AM A MAN OF GOD... NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I FOLLOW MY BELIEFS. IF STRUCK IN THE RIGHT CHEEK, THEN I PRESENT THE LEFT.

RUMORS ABOUT US HAVING SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT.

LOOK, ABOUT YOUR DAD, OKAY. THERE'S A LOT OF LOOSE TALK AROUND HERE. STUPID PEOPLE SPREADING RUMORS.

...THAT'S ALL WE'LL EVER ASK OF YOU... FATHER.

GOOD...

.....

.....

LOOK...

LIKE THE MESSENGERS OF PEACE THEY ARE, I PRAY FOR AN END TO VIOLENCE IN THIS WORLD. WHAT HAPPENS HERE IS ONLY A SMALL PART OF A TERRIBLE STRUGGLE...

...I AM LIKE THOSE DOVES OUT THERE.

...WAR, INJUSTICE, INHUMANITY... YES, WOULD THAT WE FLEW LIKE THE DOVES...

PART 5 THE MESSENGERS FLEW

Via Nicolò III, Rome

HE'D LIKE YOU TO STAY IN HIS OLD ROOM TONIGHT.

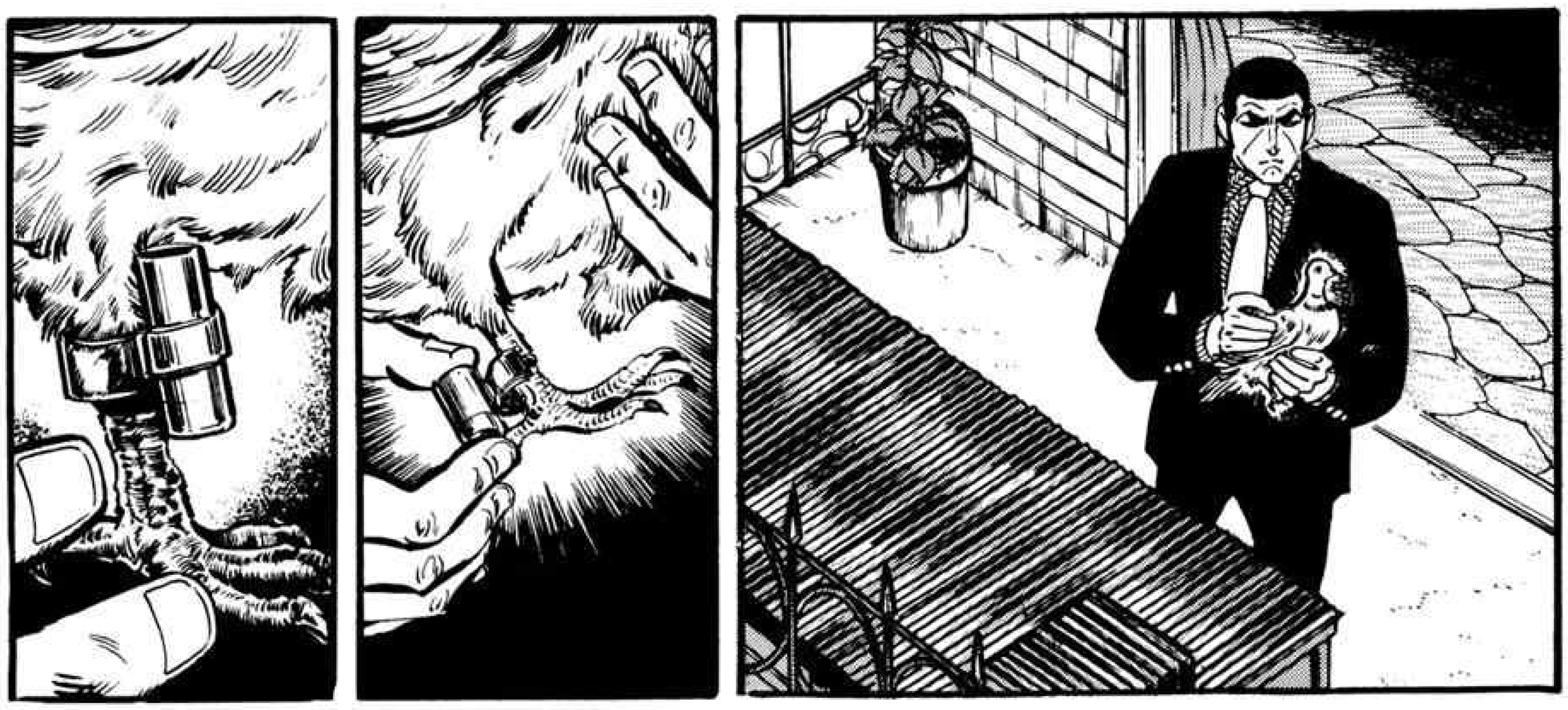
FATHER MORETTI...? YES, HE LEFT INSTRUCTIONS.

THIS WAY, PLEASE.

.....

KICK

Kchak



frapp

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fraaappppp

PART 6 IN THE NEXT SEAT OVER

A PRIEST NAMED FATHER SERGIO MORETTI IS THE MAN WHO ROBBED THE BANCO AMBROSIANO.

IT TOOK A WHILE TO CONFIRM IT, BUT WE'RE SURE WE'VE GOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CONVICT NOW.

I'M ASKING FOR YOU TO HANDLE THIS *SENSITIVELY*. HE WAS NO PROFESSIONAL... AND ONE OF THE TELLERS IN THE BANK ACTUALLY RECOGNIZED HIS VOICE.

I UNDER-STAND, *VICE-QUESTORE*...

IT'S BAD FOR THE PUBLIC PEACE. HE NEEDS TO BE BROUGHT IN QUIETLY.

WE'VE HAD TWO POPES DIE IN THE PAST YEAR. THE LAST THING WE NEED IS A SCANDAL LIKE THIS FOR THE CHURCH.

SEE THAT YOU DO, TORRI.

RIGHT.

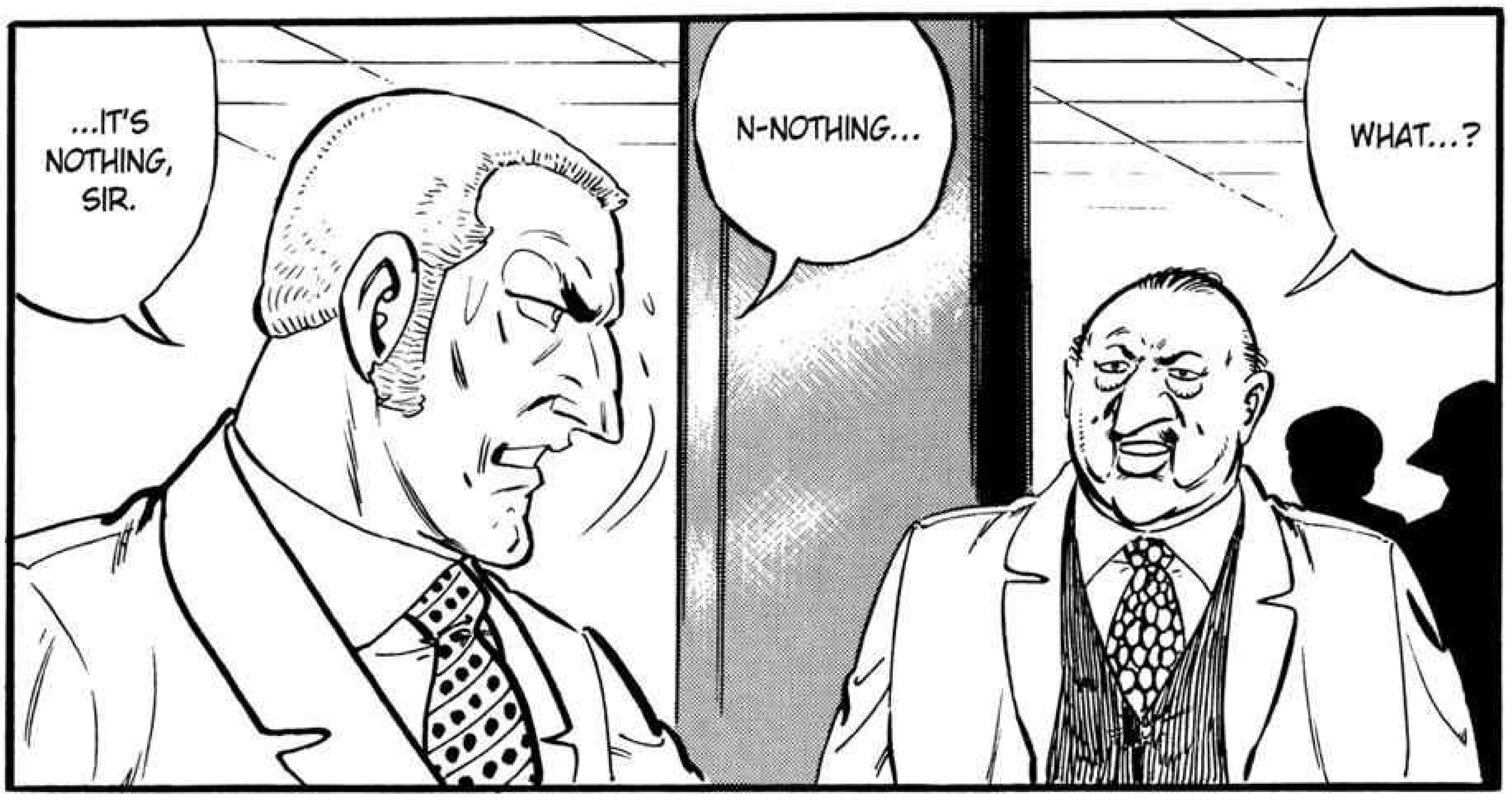
PLEASE LEAVE IT TO ME.

...I DIDN'T JOIN THE FORCE YESTERDAY.

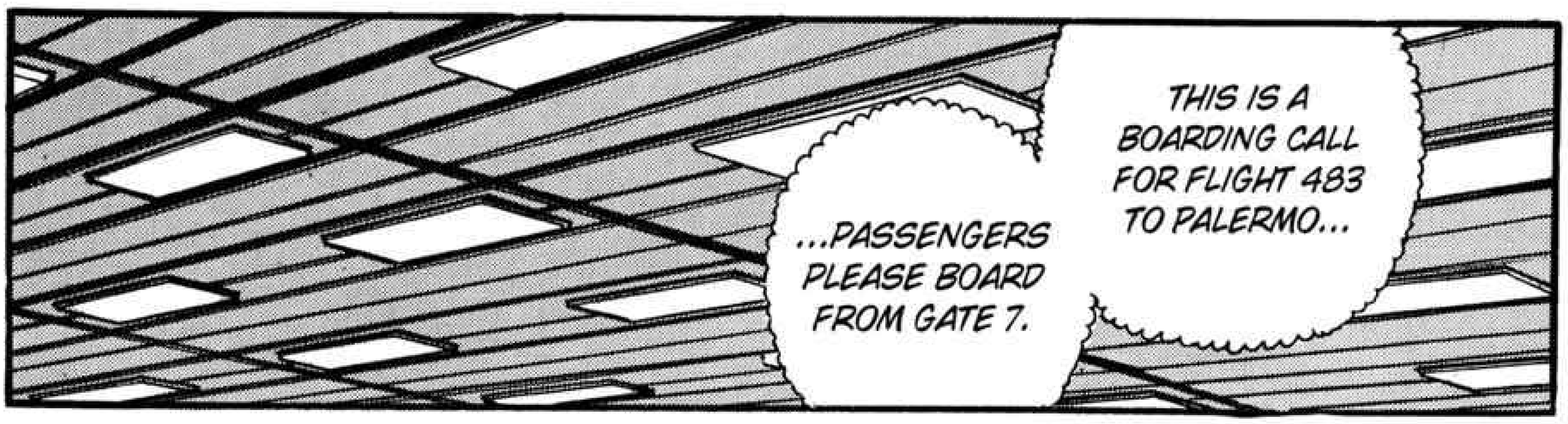
!!

OS WEST
ST
-NO

!!


...IT'S NOTHING, SIR.
N-NOTHING...
WHAT...?

WEST
NOR


...PASSENGERS PLEASE BOARD FROM GATE 7.
THIS IS A BOARDING CALL FOR FLIGHT 483 TO PALERMO...

WEST
FIRST CLASS

THAT'S YOU, SOTTOTENENTE. I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
YES, SIR.

ANGELO TORRI, GUARDIA DI FINANZA.

MAY I HELP YOU?

I'M TAKING IT.

THEN CONTACT THE PLANE AND HAVE WHOMEVER'S SITTING THERE MOVED.

IS THE SEAT NEXT TO THAT ASIAN MAN OPEN?

N-NO, SIR, IT'S TAKEN ALREADY.

Alitalia

RRRR

...IS NOW THE SUB-LIEUTENANT SITTING NEXT TO YOU. A FORTY-FIVE YEAR-OLD SUB-LIEUTENANT. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT, EH?

...AND THAT SOMEONE...

.....

.....

HARD TO BELIEVE I HAD MADE IT ALL THE WAY TO CAPTAIN BACK THEN IN THE *GRUPPO DI INVESTIGAZIONE CRIMINALITÀ ORGANIZZATA*. BUT I GUESS SOMEONE HAD TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT CUBAN DIPLOMAT GETTING A BULLET IN THE BRAIN...

.....

PLEASURE... OR BUSINESS?

AND WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SUNNY SICILY TODAY, *SIGNOR* TOGO?

THEY'VE GOT A PRICE ON THEIR HEADS, YOU KNOW...A VERY BIG ONE, THEY SAY...PAYABLE IN AMERICAN MAFIA DOLLARS.

VITTORE? TOMMASO? DO THOSE NAMES RING A BELL?

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THE VALENTINO BROTHERS?

.....

SEVERAL HUNDRED METERS AWAY, WOULD BE MY GUESS.

I KNOW FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, YOU'LL WANT TO STAY WELL AWAY FROM THEM.

BUT YOU...

I'M JUST JEALOUS, YOU SEE...I'VE BEEN SENT TO SICILY ON A STUPID JOB, MYSELF. SOME IDIOT HELD UP A BANK IN HIS OWN NEIGHBORHOOD, AND I'VE GOT TO DRAG HIM BACK FOR TRIAL.

.....

ONCE WE TOUCH DOWN, IT'S GOING TO BE A SHORT STAY IN PALERMO... GOLGO 13.

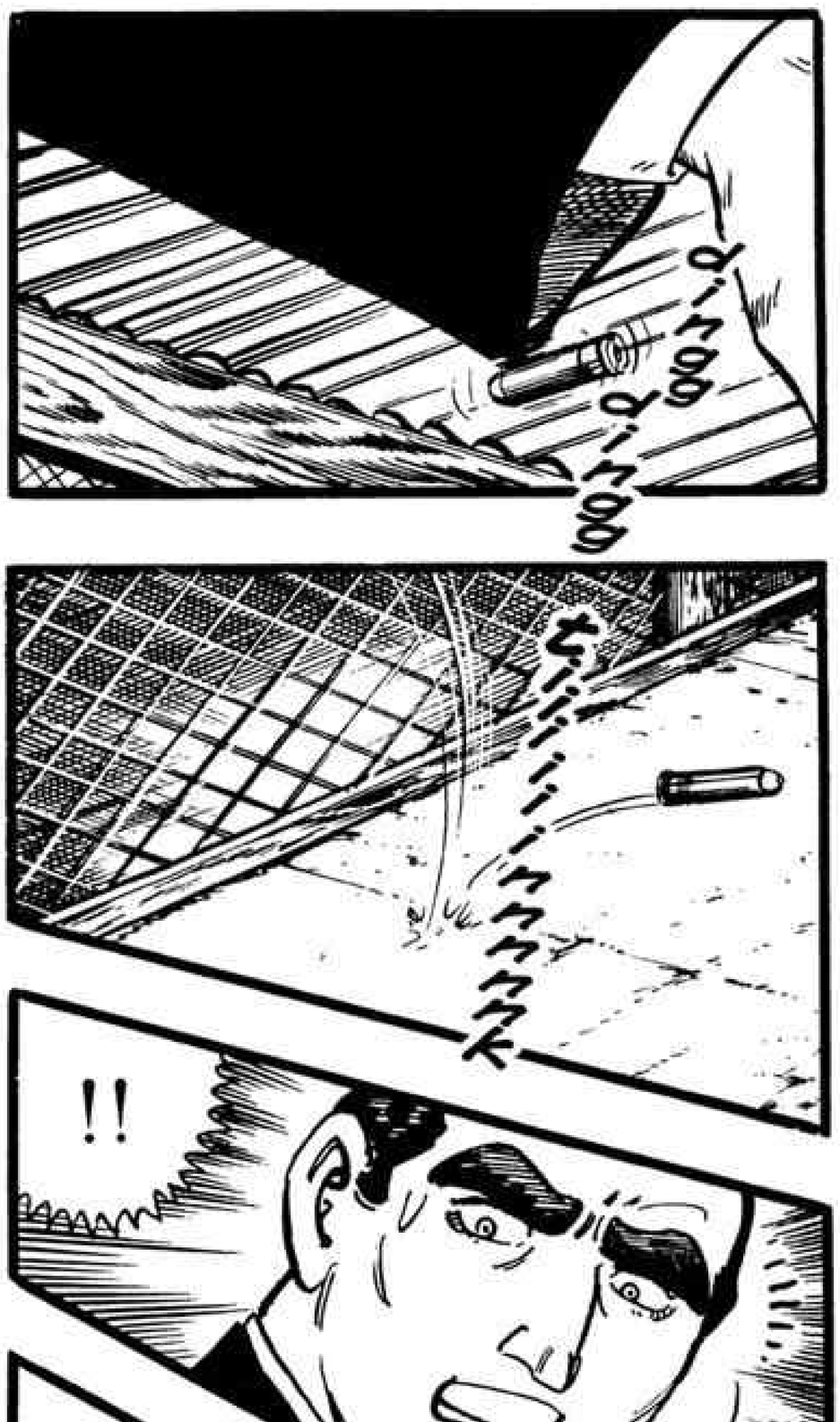
...ARE ABOUT TO FIND THAT A MAN'S BAD LUCK CAN BE CONTAGIOUS.

ZZZ

PART 7

THE LAW OF SICILY

flapp
flapp
flapp


MASTER...? THE DOVES HAVE RETURNED SO SUDDENLY...
!!
!!
??

.....
WHAT...WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING WITH THIS?
MASTER! ...THIS IS A BULLET!

WH-WHAT ?!

!!

...BUT BEFORE MY FATHER EVER TOOK ME IN, I LEARNED THE LAW OF SICILY.

PACO... FORGIVE ME, MY OLD FRIEND...

I WILL AVENGE HIM.

DO YOU MEAN THIS...?

SERGIO!

!!

BUT I'LL HAVE HELP, PACO. I'VE HIRED AN ASSASSIN TO TAKE CARE OF VITTORE VALENTINO.

YOU'LL JUST BE SHOT DOWN YOURSELF!

YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE! A PRIEST, STANDING UP TO THE VALENTINO BROTHERS?

YES... IF I HAD NO HELP...

BUT... WHY ONLY VITTORE?

.....

I MANAGED TO LAY HANDS ON SOME MONEY BEFORE I LEFT ROME.

GOVERNMENTS EMPLOY HIS SERVICES, PACO...EVEN *COSA NOSTRA* FEARS HIM! HE'S KILLED THEIR MEN BEFORE.

THIS MAN'S FEES ARE QUITE HIGH... HE'S FAMED FOR HIS SKILL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

.....

Oooo

...SO I ASKED THAT IT BE VITTORE.

BUT I FOUND IT WAS ONLY ENOUGH FOR THE LIFE OF ONE OF THEM...

HIM... I WILL KILL.

...WHAT OF TOM-MASO...?

THEN...

...I SWEAR TO IT!

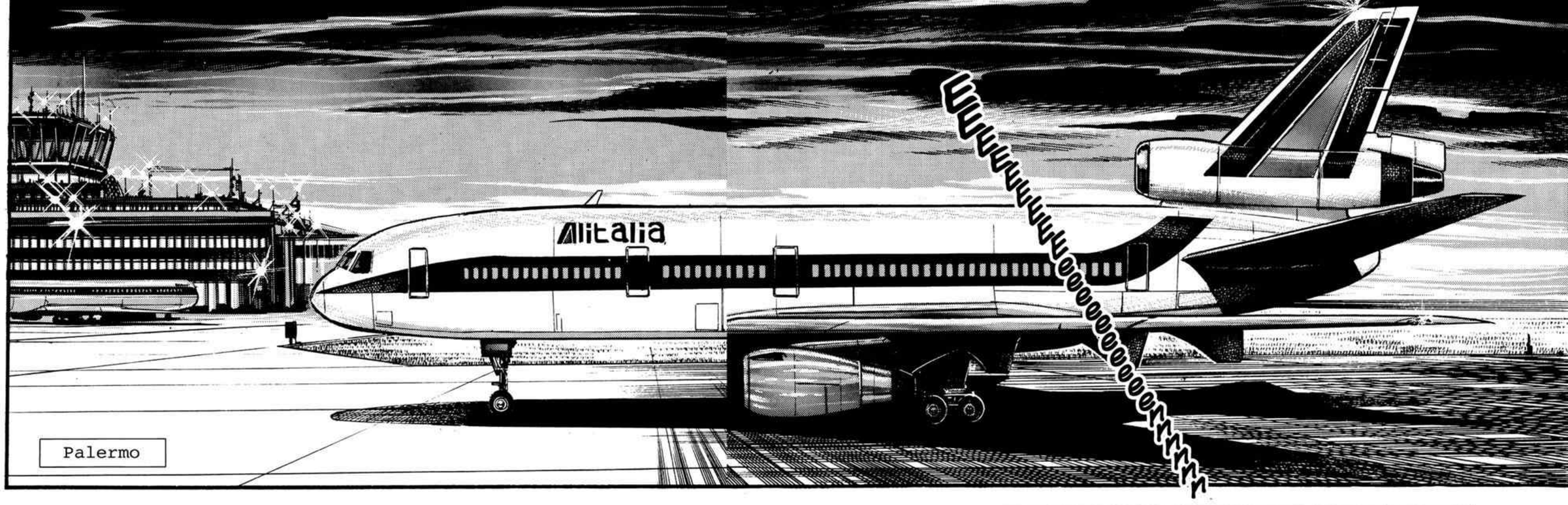
I HAVE A PLAN... AND EVEN IF I DO NOT SUCCEED...I WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE TOMMASO VALENTINO'S LIFE...

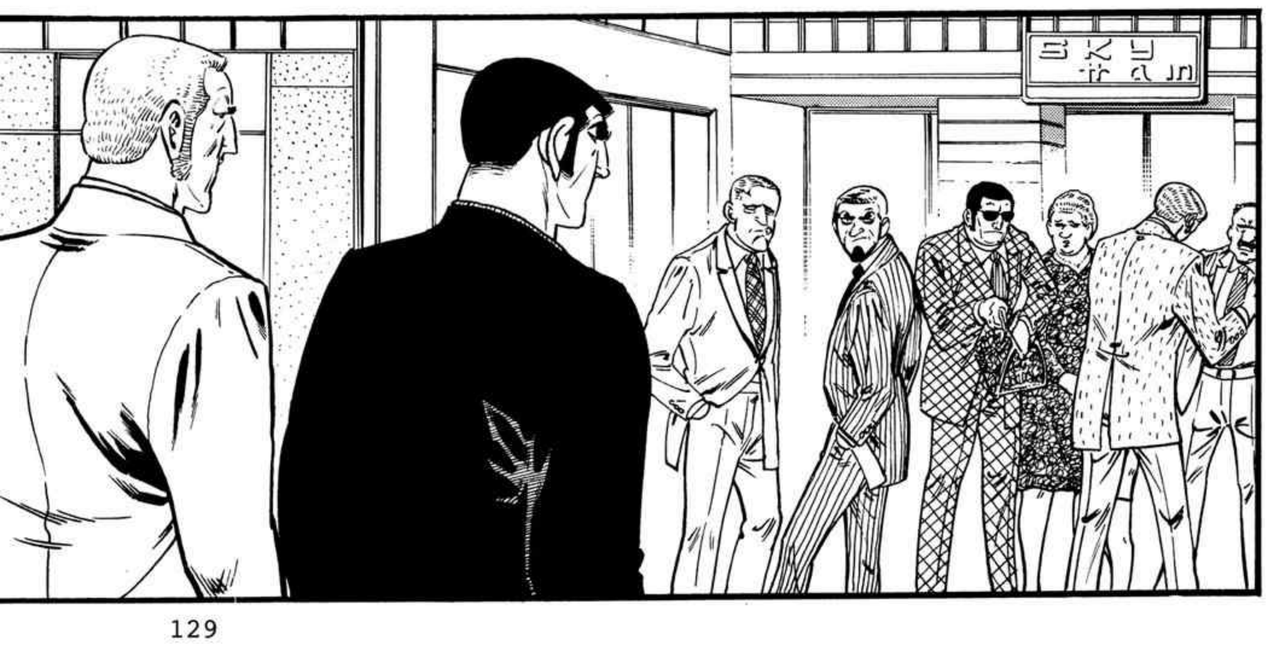
??

.....

MASTER SERGIO, *HOW?* THEY SURROUND THEMSELVES WITH BODYGUARDS... THEY ALLOW ONLY THEIR MEN TO CARRY WEAPONS!

YOU SAY YOU NEEDED TO HIRE A PROFESSIONAL, IS IT NOT SO? YOU CHOSE A WAY OF THE MEEK...YOU CANNOT CHANGE IT NOW!


Alitalia
Palermo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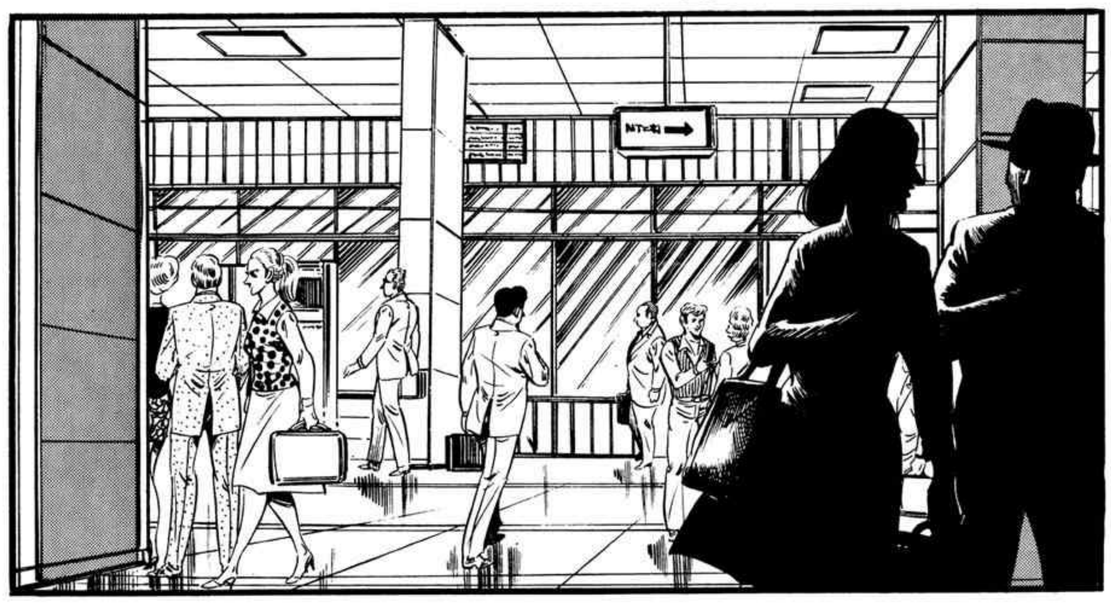
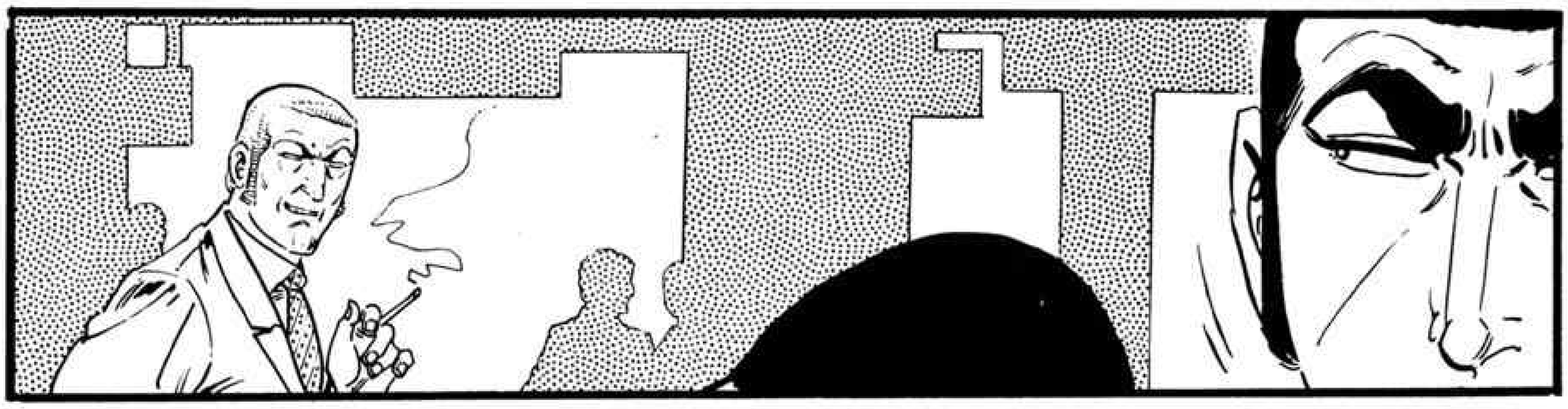


.....
NOW, THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING.
AH, MY SICILIAN COLLEAGUES. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY'RE ALL IN THE PAY OF THE VALENTINOS.

.....
MI DISPAICI, I WILL HAVE TO INSPECT YOU, SIR. WE'VE HAD REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE TERRORIST.



HE SAID, "I'VE ACQUIRED A WEAPON, AND I'LL BE USING A FAKE POLICE BADGE"...

LISTEN, OFFICER... THAT MAN BEHIND ME, I'VE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT HIM ALL DURING THE FLIGHT. I OVERHEARD HIM CALLING NEW YORK AT THE ROME AIRPORT...

WHAT?

NOTHING HERE.

HE'S CLEAN.

?

!

HEY!

?!

KTMP KTMP

SEARCH HIM!

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?!

SMAK

FAKE?!

W-WHAT?

HE...

HERE WE ARE, SIR...GUN... AND A FAKE POLICE BADGE.

I'M SUB-LIEUTENANT ANGELO TORRI, *GUARDIA DI FINANZA!* THIS...THIS IS A BREACH OF PROCEDURE!

...THAT *BASTARD!*

THAT...

TESTA DI MINCHIA!

CHECK MY BADGE NUMBER!

CONFIRM IT WITH THE CHIEF OF POLICE HERE!

BUSINESS? IDIOT! YOU'VE BEEN TRICKED! THAT *GIAPPONESE* YOU SEARCHED...HE'S THE *REAL* HIT MAN!

WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD JUST WALTZ INTO SICILY AND DO YOUR BUSINESS HERE?

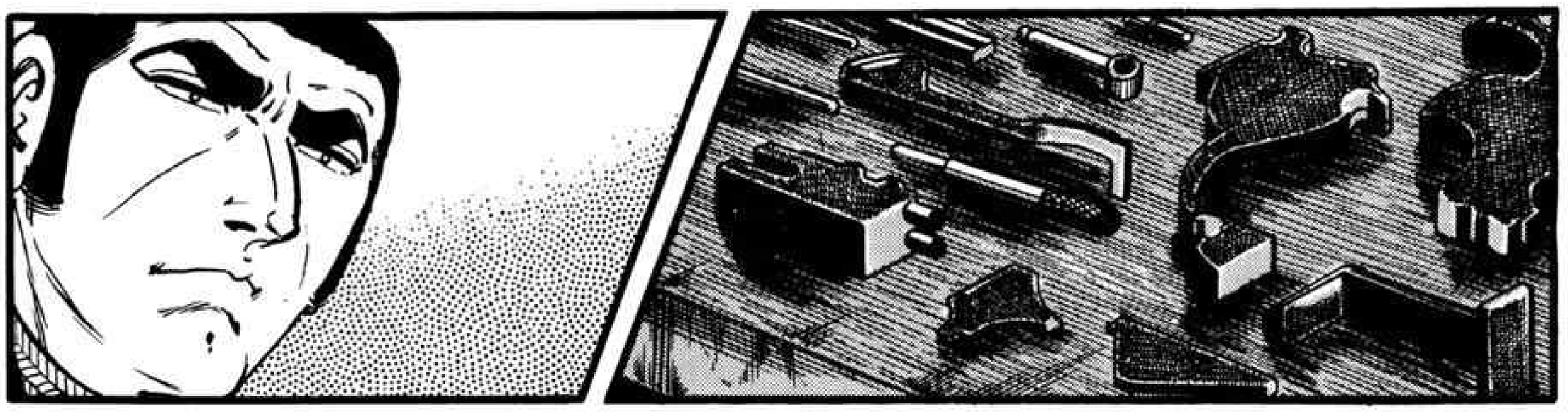
HEY! HEY, ***WAIT!***

LIKE THEY'D SEND A JAPANESE. COME ON, GET MOVING...

FIAT

PART 8

EVENING INQUIRIES



YES...I MEASURED THE SPOUT...

...WHAT DID YOU WANT TO KNOW THAT FOR...?

THAT'S THE BARREL.

THE FOUNTAIN OUTSIDE YOUR CHURCH--DID YOU DO AS I TOLD YOU?

BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE A RIFLE OUT OF JUST THESE...WHAT WILL YOU USE FOR THE BARREL...?

.....

IT MAKES THE WATER SPIN... IT'LL DO THE SAME FOR THE BULLET.

NOZZLES LIKE THAT HAVE SPIRAL GROOVES ON THE INSIDE.

THE *FOUNTAIN NOZZLE?* WHY THAT?

...IT'S TAKEN CARE OF, MR. TOGO.

THAT'S FINE...

WE'LL STILL NEED A SMITH TO ASSEMBLE IT.

I'M NOT THE ONLY PERSON HERE WHO'S LOST FAMILY TO THOSE SCUM!

HE HATES THEM AS MUCH AS I DO.

...IS THE MAN TRUSTWORTHY?

I'LL ASK YOU ONE MORE TIME...

.....

...BY TO-MORROW.

THE GUN WILL BE READY ...

urgh!

KRAKK

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT?! I'M A *COP*!! I WORK FOR THE *GUARDIA DI FINANZA!*

BUT WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED. WHO HIRED YOU? WHICH FAMILY?!

NOT BAD... MOST GUYS SCREAM LIKE A WOMAN.

...HE'S HERE IN SICILY...

I-I TOLD YOU BEFORE...I'M HERE TO SECRETLY ESCORT OUT A BANK ROBBERY SUSPECT...

...WHAT ARE YOUR LAWFUL DUTIES HERE...?

THEN PLEASE INFORM, US OFFICER...

.....

THAT'S... CONFIDENTIAL INFORMA-TION...

BANK ROBBERY, IS IT? WE KNOW EVERYTHING THAT GOES ON ON THE ISLAND! TELL ME...WHO HERE HAS DONE SUCH A THING?!

LOOK... THERE'S A REASON...

HOW DUMB DOES NEW YORK THINK WE *ARE*?!

DIDN'T YOU EVEN THINK TO MAKE UP A *NAME*?

UGH!!

KKA

...DO I HAVE TO EXPLAIN IT IN YOUR LANGUAGE, YOU STUPID SICILIAN PRICK? *SUGNU INNUCENT!!*

IT'S A SOCIALLY SENSITIVE CASE... PUT THAT THING DOWN! WE'RE TRYING TO AVOID A PUBLIC SCANDAL...

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

SMASH

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

...WHO'S THE HIT MAN?!

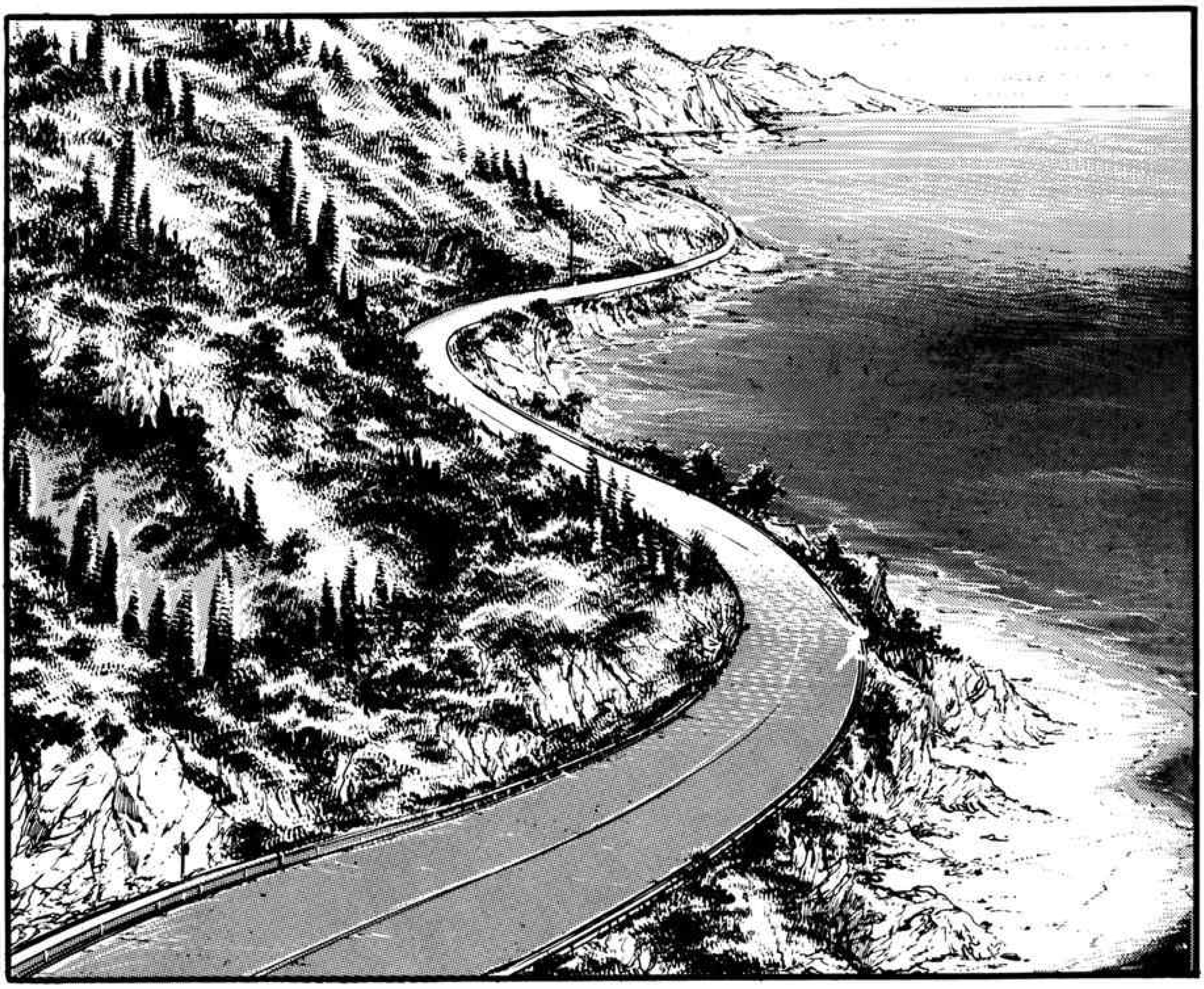
TH-THEN...

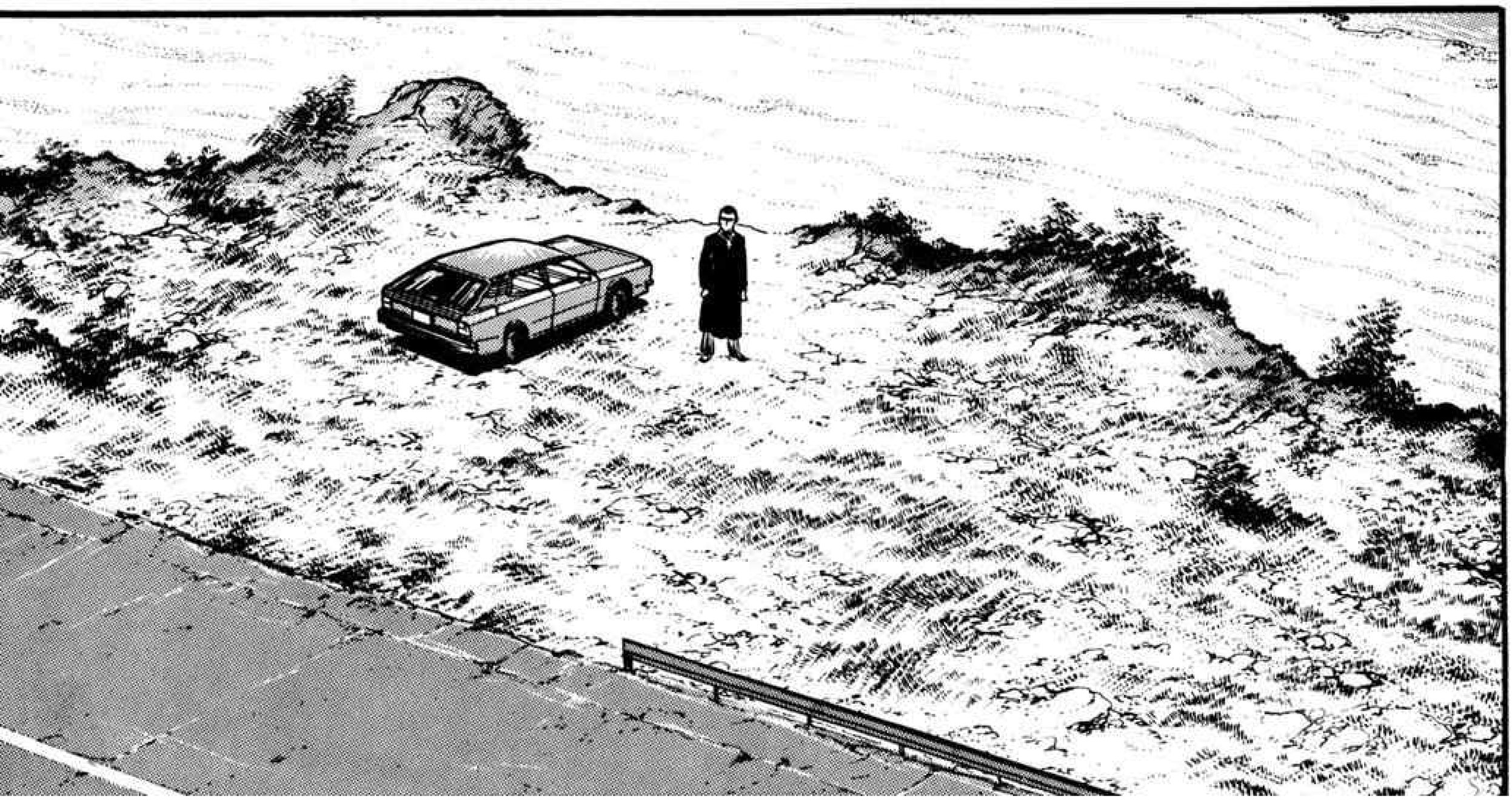
EH?

HE'S NOT A FAKE! I GAVE MY FRIENDS IN THE *GUARDIA DI FINANZA* A CALL...

...HIS BADGE WAS *REAL*...THEY CONFIRMED HE'S ON SECRET ASSIGNMENT HERE!

PART 9 BEACH RANGING





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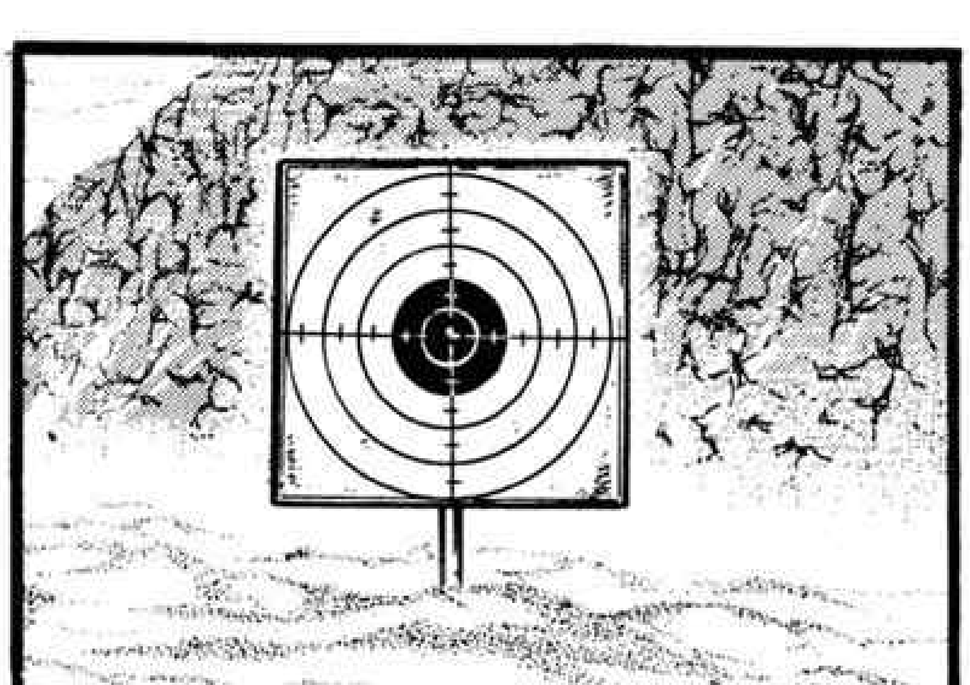


BLAMMMMMMMMM

RRRR

Hmmmm...

.....

...COULD MAKE A LOT OF MONEY OUTSIDE SICILY.

THAT SMITH ...

HE COULD CAUSE TROUBLE AS LONG AS HE'S RUNNING AROUND, BUT...

...THEY MAY HAVE LET HIM GO BY NOW.

THE VALENTINOS HAVE BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO BABYSIT AN OFFICER FOR ME.

THE SOONER, THE BETTER.

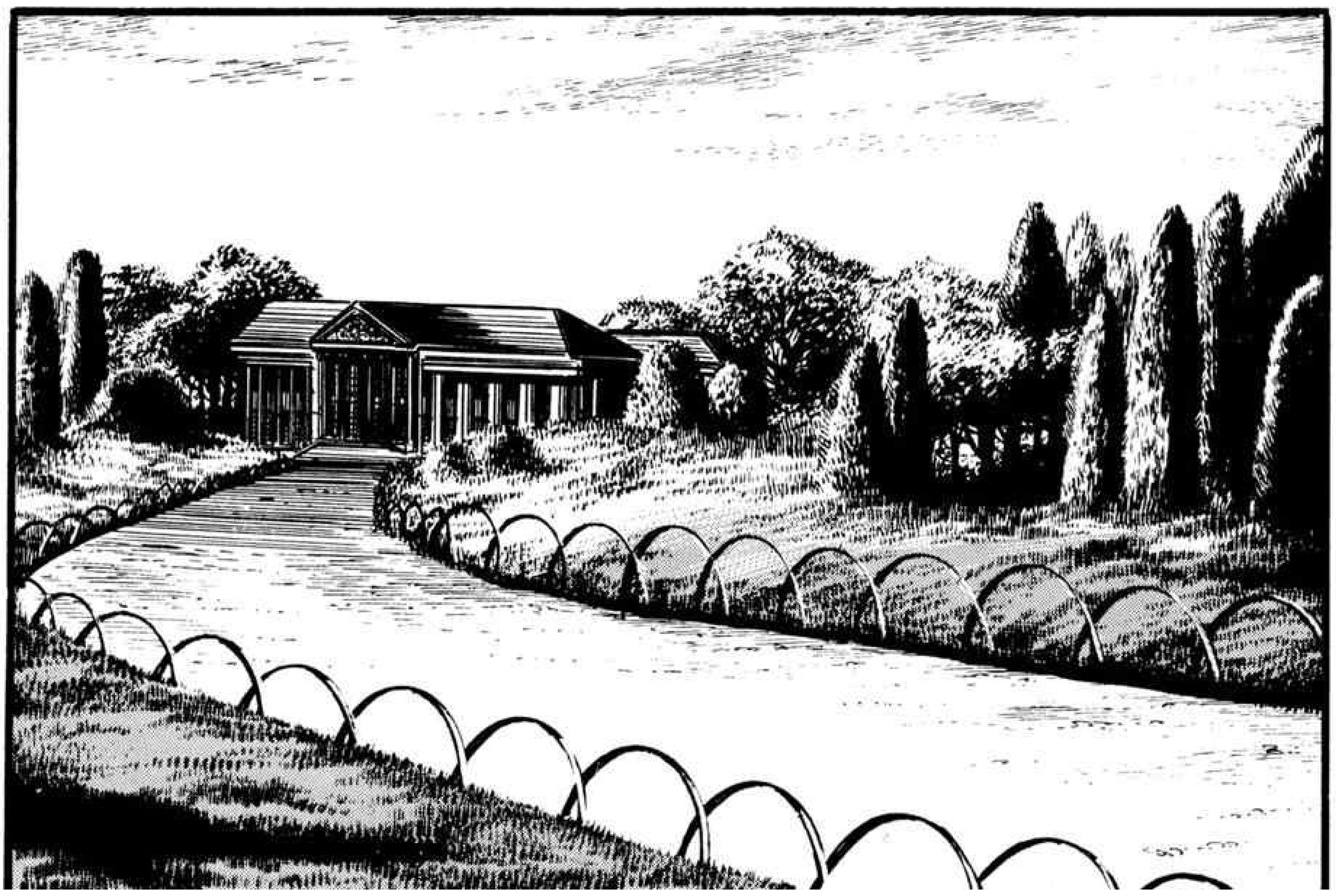
WHEN WILL YOU ACT?

...

THAT MEANS I'LL BE DRAWING THEIR ATTENTION SOON.

RRRR

PART 10 BREAKING THE BARBER'S MIRROR



GOING TO GET A SHAVE!

WHERE ELSE WOULD I GO AT THIS TIME OF DAY?

FRATI, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

VITTORE, IT'S NOT A TIME TO RELAX...

...AND I GUARANTEE HE'LL SAY THOSE LINES DOWN HIS BACK CAME FROM SOME *PUTTANE'S* FINGERNAILS.

YOU WORRIED ABOUT THAT COP? THEY PAY THOSE PIGS SHIT. WE GIVE HIM A NICE ENVELOPE OF MONEY...

NO, WE'LL GET AROUND TO HIM...BUT I KNOW HIS M.O. HE USES A GUN. MUST HAVE THOUGHT HE COULD PICK ONE UP HERE.

I'VE GOT EVERY SPORTING GOODS STORE AND BLACK MARKET DEALER ON THIS ISLAND LOCKED DOWN. HAVE TO, FOR OUR SECURITY.

WE CAN'T JUST LET HIM RUN AROUND LOOSE!

WE CAN HANDLE THE COP. WHAT ABOUT GOLGO 13? ROSSI'S MEN CONFIRMED HIS STORY.

.....

WE KEEP MOVING, TOMMASO.

NO ONE'S SELLING ANYTHING WITHOUT MY HEARING ABOUT IT...NO ONE'S BEEN ROBBED FOR THEIR GUNS... ALL PIECES ARE ACCOUNTED FOR.

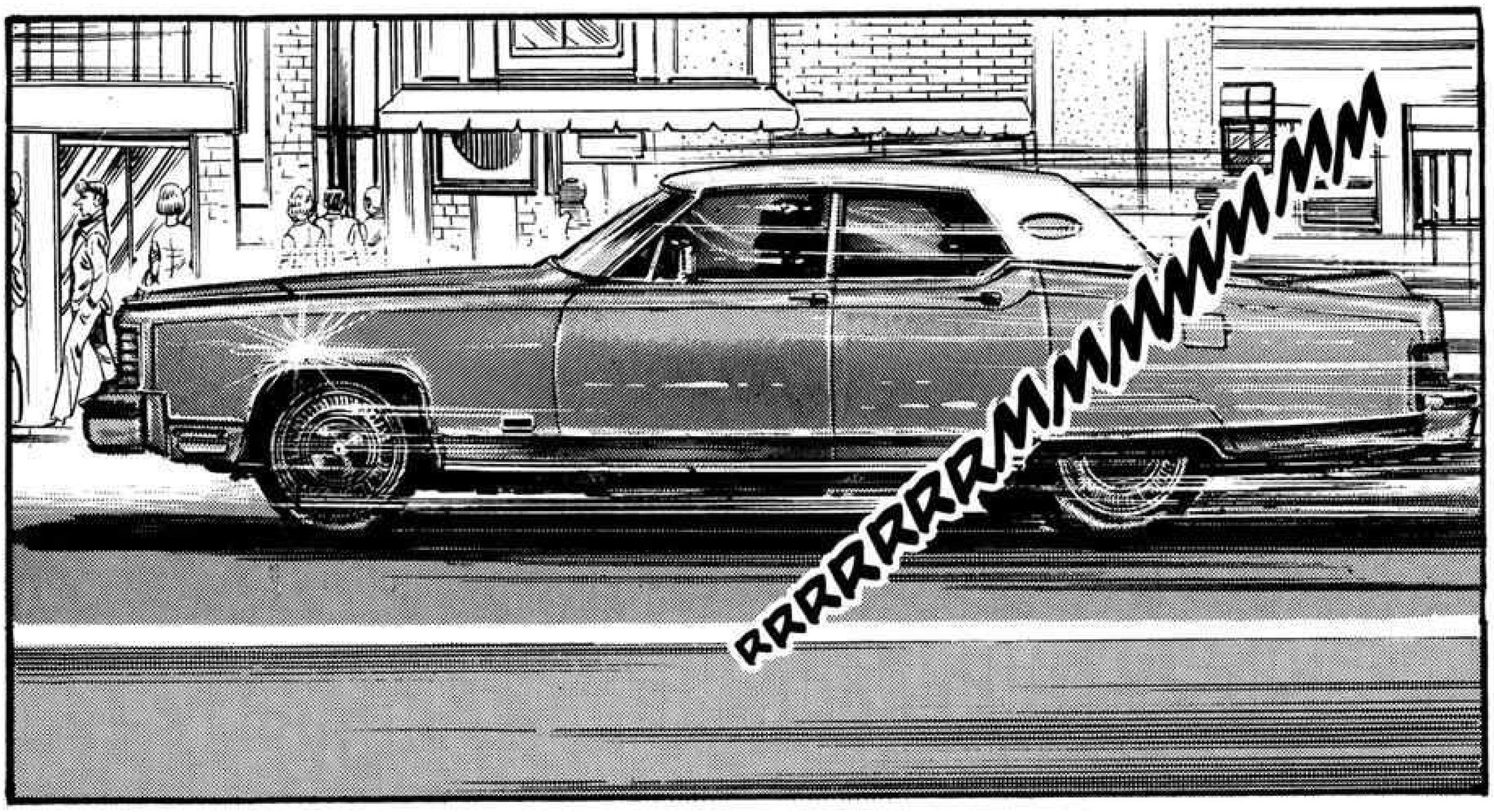
ALL RIGHT, VITTORE.

EITHER WAY, WE'LL DEAL WITH IT. GIVE THE BOYS HIS DESCRIPTION... HE'LL BE FOUND SOON ENOUGH.

HE'S GOING TO GIVE UP, OR HE'S GOING TO TRY SOMETHING STUPID.

VVVRRR

AHHH...
HEY, BOSS...THAT WAS SOME PIECE OF HIDE YOUR BROTHER TOOK OFF THE COP! WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WITH THIS HIT MAN WHEN WE CATCH HIM?
.....
...NOW THAT'S SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT WHILE I'M RELAXING IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR.


RRRR

AH, DON VALENTINO, IT'S BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE SO MANY RICH CUSTOMERS LIKE YOU.

...AND HAVE SUCH AN POOR-LOOKING SHOP.

VULISSI NA MASCHIRA FACCIALI, RICCO. YOU KNOW, WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS HOW YOU CAN BE THE BEST BARBER IN SICILY...

HOW IS IT, DON ...?

HMM...

KCHHK

THAT'S GONNA CHANGE, RICCO. PRETTY SOON WE'LL HAVE A BIG CASINO HERE.

ALL THE HIGH ROLLERS WILL BE HEARING ABOUT YOU, EH? HAVE TO FANCY UP THE PLACE A LITTLE...GET RID OF THAT PLYWOOD, PUT IN SOME *MARBLE!*

?

BLAMM MMMMMMM

chinkkkkk

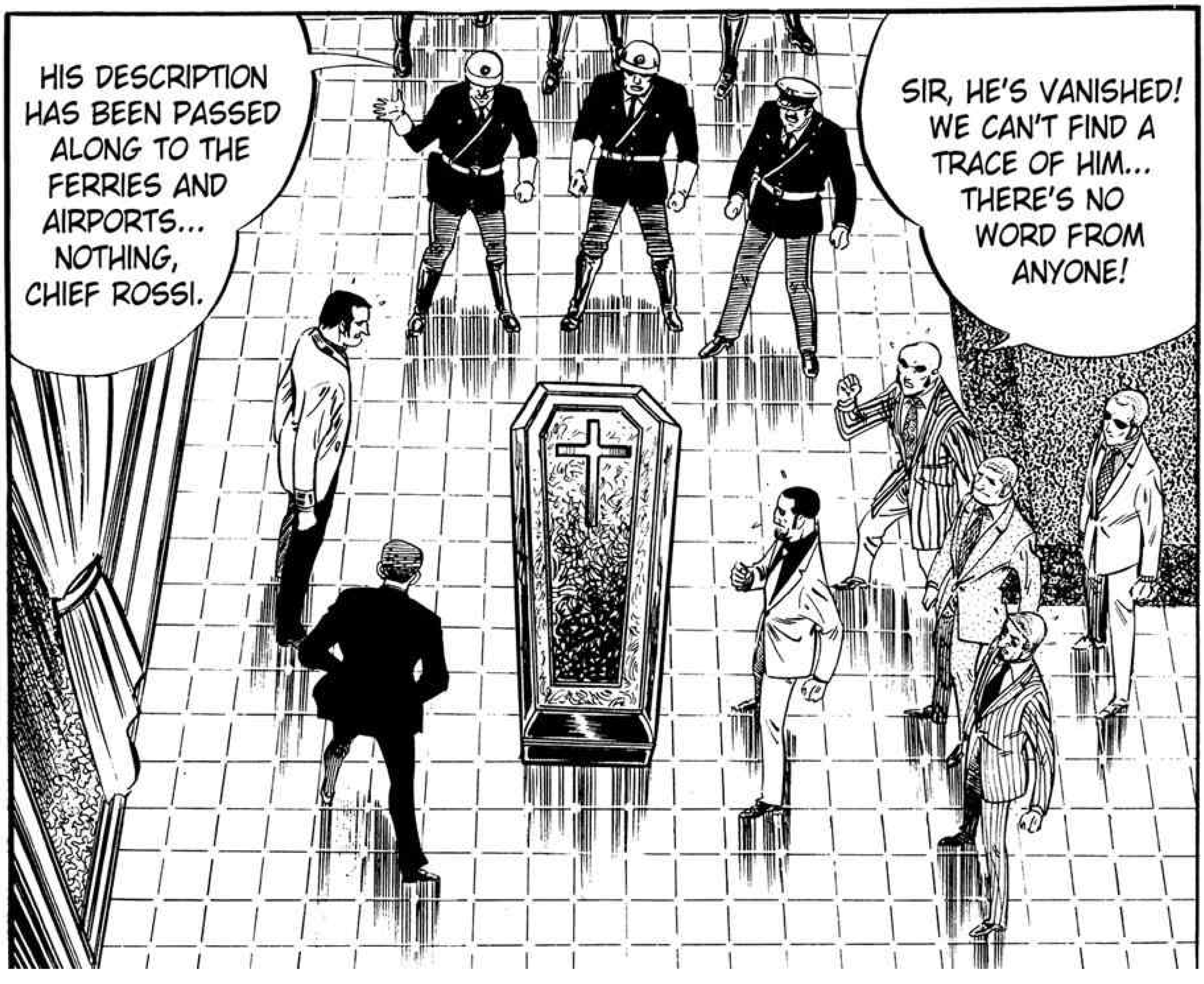
BOSS !!

WH--

GESÙ!

CRAK

PART 11 BURIAL UNDER THE FULL MOON


HIS DESCRIPTION HAS BEEN PASSED ALONG TO THE FERRIES AND AIRPORTS... NOTHING, CHIEF ROSSI.
SIR, HE'S VANISHED! WE CAN'T FIND A TRACE OF HIM... THERE'S NO WORD FROM ANYONE!

THIS IS *OUR ISLAND!* **OURS**, MY BROTHER AND I! WE'RE NOT GOING TO BARRICADE OURSELVES HERE!

HE GOT A GUN, WE DON'T KNOW HOW. YOU HAD BETTER KEEP INSIDE.

TOMMASO... YOU HAD THE RIGHT INSTINCTS. VITTORE DIDN'T.

.....

NO...HERE IS WHAT WE DO...WE GO OUT WITH VITTORE, AND WE BURY HIM THIS EVENING IN THE HILLS!

KEEP INSIDE? HOLE UP LIKE A RAT...? *È NA BEDDA NOTTI!* LOOK UP AT THIS BEAUTIFUL NIGHT...THE FULL MOON, IT TELLS US NOT TO HIDE!

DO YOU UNDER-STAND?!

AND TOMORROW, IN THE LIGHT OF DAY, WE FIND THE ASSASSIN...*AND OPEN HIS THROAT OVER THE GRAVE!!*

Y-YES, DON...

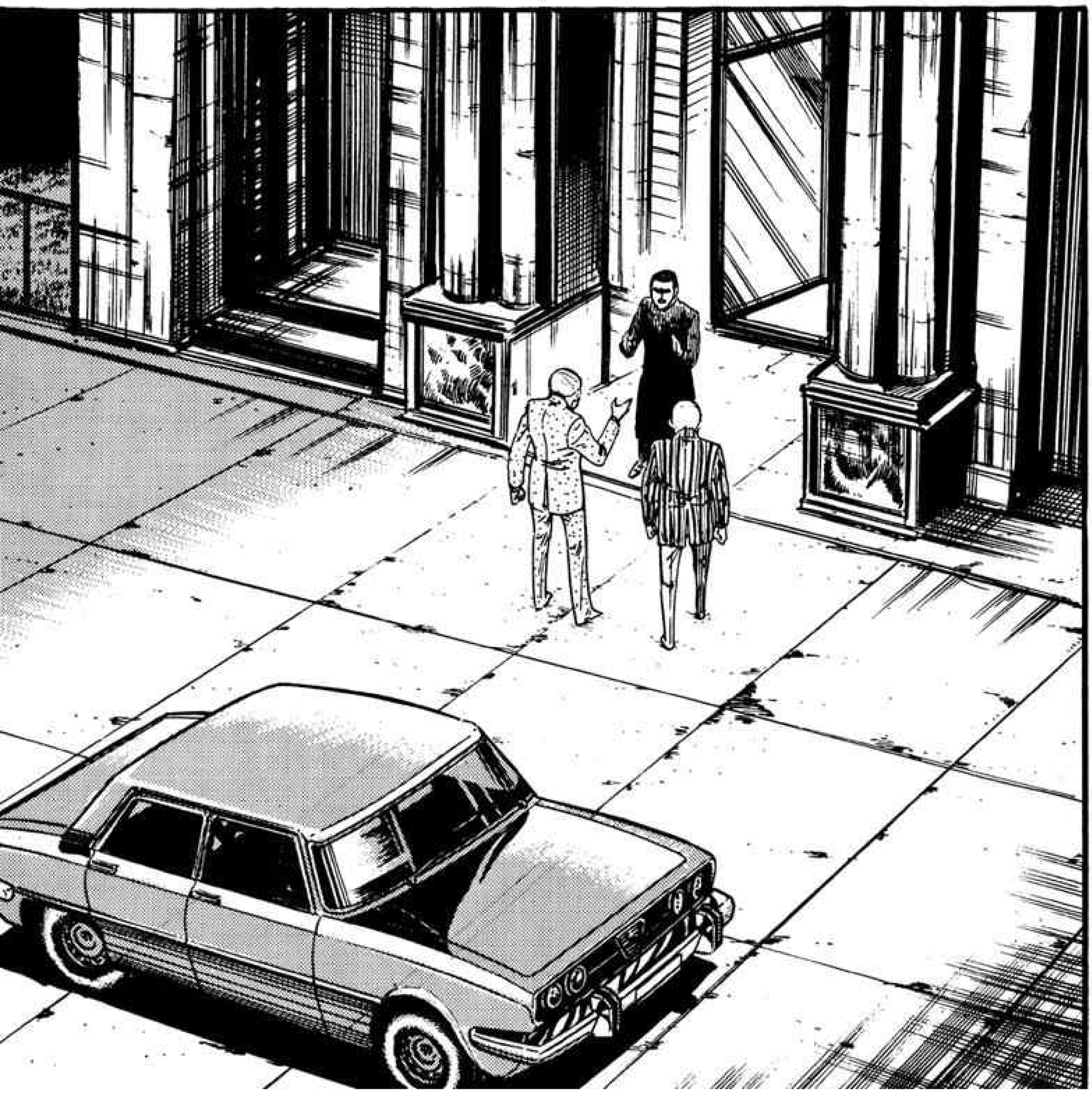
GO!

STAI ZITTO! I'M NOT AFRAID OF GOLGO 13...DO YOU THINK I'M AFRAID OF A *PRIEST?*

S-SIR...

S-SIR? IT'S IN THE PARISH OF FATHER MORETTI... I DON'T THINK HE WILL...THAT IS... PERHAPS WE SHOULD...

THE OLD CEMETERY! LET'S GO!



LOOK AT HIM...ROBBED A BANK WITH A REVOLVER, AND HIS FACE IS STILL MEEK AND MILD AS A LAMB.

SCUM...THE WHOLE ISLAND, THEY SHOULD JUST PUSH IT UNDER THE SEA...EVEN THE PRIESTS ARE CROOKS AROUND HERE.

...BUT NOT WITHOUT BRINGING *BOTH* OF THOSE BASTARDS WITH ME.

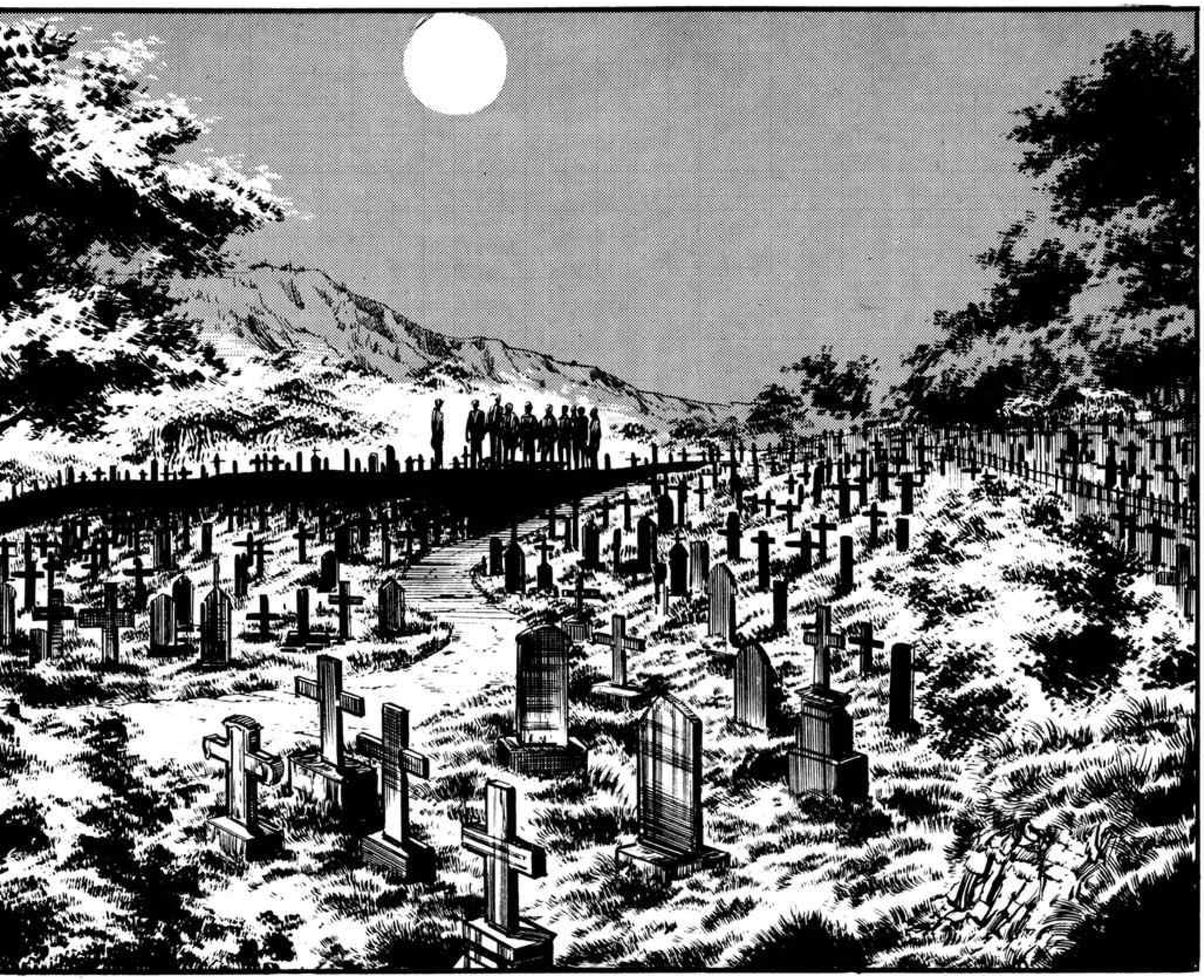
LIKE *I* WANT TO...

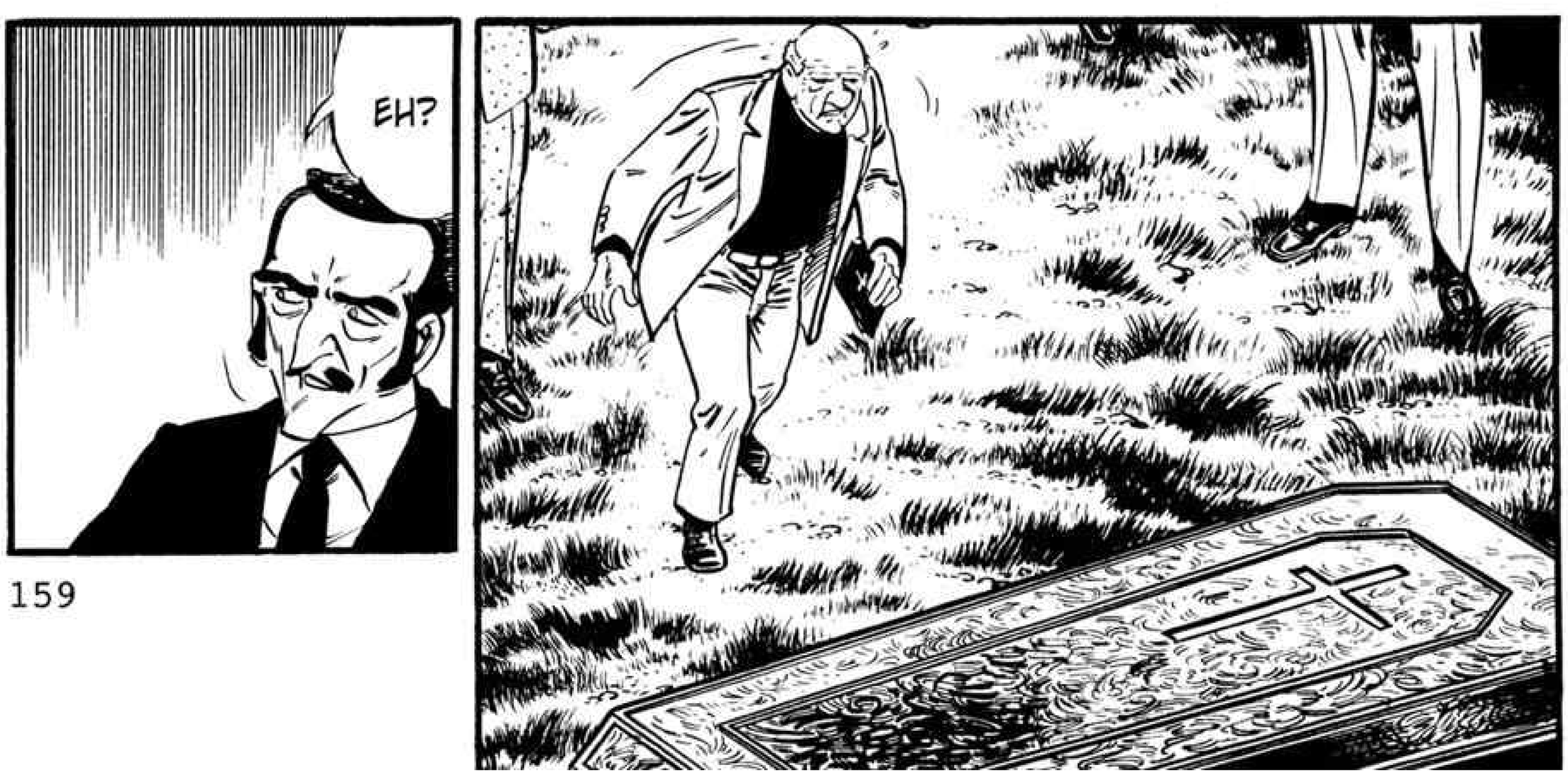
...BUT I'M NOT GIVING UP. GOLGO GOT VITTORE, HE'LL BE GOING AFTER TOMMASO NEXT...AND THEN HE'LL WANT TO GET OUT OF SICILY.

...I WILL TAKE THE BODY INTO MY CARE.

YOU NEED NOT CONCERN YOURSELVES... IN DEATH, HIS SINS SHOULD BE FORGIVEN HIM...

PART 12 LAST RITES





159

ILL, *MERDA!* THIS IS DISRESPECT!

HE SENDS THE *SEXTON* TO GIVE THE RITES TO DON VALENTINO!

NO, IT'S NOT THAT...WE JUST HAVE NO OTHER PRIESTS...

THE FATHER... HE...HE SUDDENLY TOOK ILL...HE BEGS YOUR FORGIVENESS, CHIEF ROSSI... ASKING ME TO READ THE SERVICE IN HIS STEAD...

WHERE IS THE PRIEST ...?

Y-YES.

I DON'T GIVE A SHIT-- JUST *PRAY!*

...TO ANYONE WAITING TO MARK IT.

BUT HE'LL MAKE ONE MISTAKE. IN THE DARK, THE FLASH WILL BE SEEN, AND HIS POSITION...

THIS IS THE FINAL ACT...HE'S ARRANGED EVERYTHING TO DRAW HIM OUT TO THE CEMETERY. CAN'T SHED A TEAR OVER HIM GETTING ONE OF G13'S BULLETS IN THE HEAD.

AND THEN I'LL HAVE HIM.

LET THE FAMILY OF VITTORE VALENTINO, HUMBLE SERVANT OF CHRIST, PAY THEIR LAST FAREWELL.

B-BEFORE WE COMMIT THE BODY TO THE EARTH...

!!

BLAMMMMM

WHAT THE--

Whs

THUD

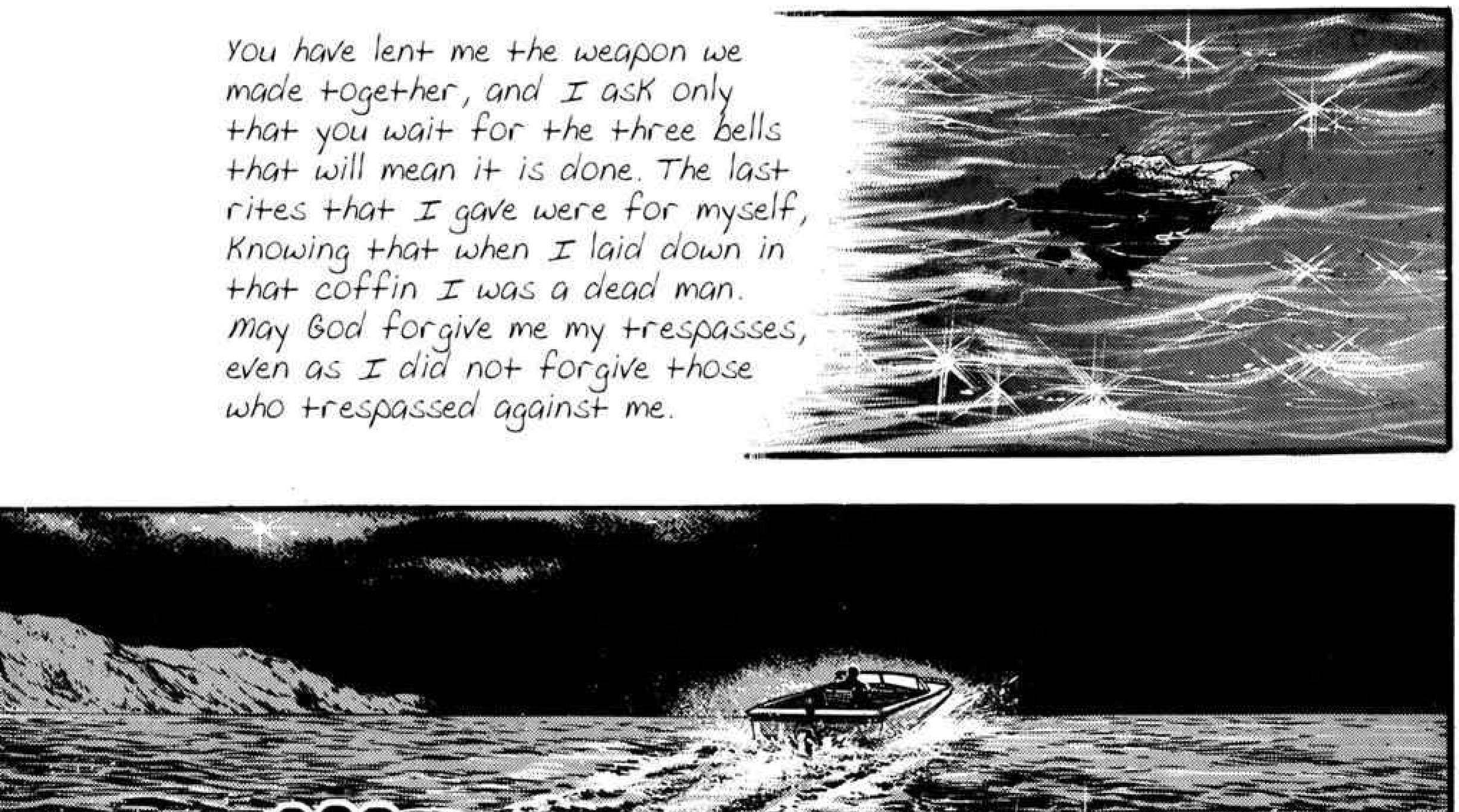
DDDD

YOU!
BLAM
BLAMMMMMMMM
BLAMMMMMMMM
...WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED ...?
WHAT ...

……

ゴゴゴ

You have lent me the weapon we made together, and I ask only that you wait for the three bells that will mean it is done. The last rites that I gave were for myself, knowing that when I laid down in that coffin I was a dead man. May God forgive me my trespasses, even as I did not forgive those who trespassed against me.

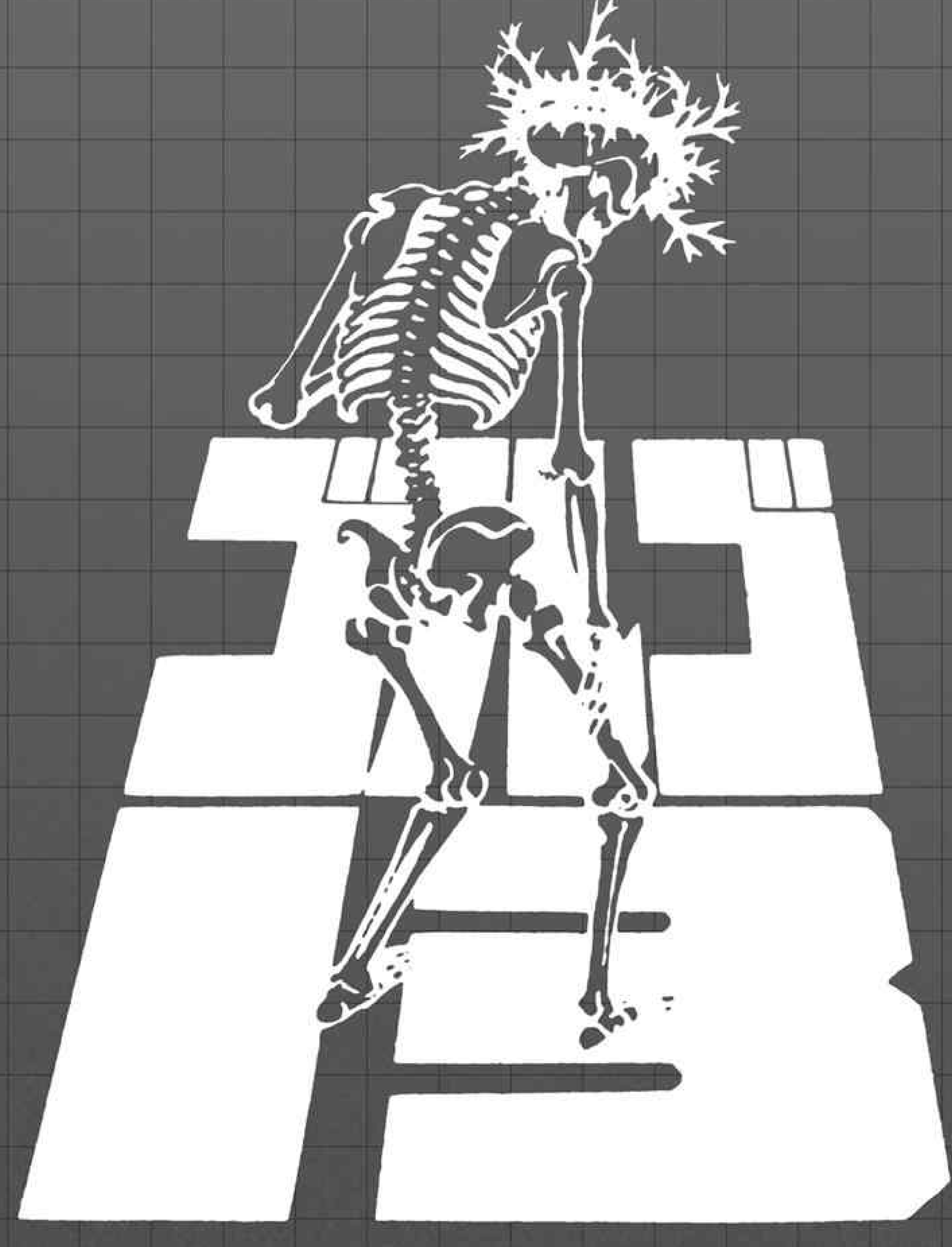


END

Gravestone in Sicily
Golgo 13 Story #139, November 1978

FILE 13

Secrets of the World's Deadliest Assassin



Summary: History and profile of **GOLGO 13** (a.k.a. "Duke Togo," other aliases) since 1968; sources include former KGB, CIA, SIS, Mossad, and other world intelligence agencies.

GOLGO 13

WHAT WAS "THE GOLGO CONTROVERSY"?

Commentary by *Even a Monkey Can Draw Manga*'s

Kentaro Takekuma

• There are many things that can happen to a person over the course of a lifetime. But the same can be said about a character in the course of a long-running series like *Golgo 13*. And in all the years since his first appearance in 1969, there was once an incident that even Golgo, with all his superhuman acumen, could not avoid. But of course he had no way of preventing it—as the incident occurred in real life.

• It happened 25 years ago, when a battle royal between fans and critics emerged in the letters pages of *Golgo 13*'s longtime home, *Big Comic* magazine. This battle later became known as "The Golgo Controversy," and became a huge topic of conversation not only for *Big Comic* readers, but for the manga world in general.

• The incident that sparked it actually occurred in the commentary section of another magazine, *Weekly Gem* Vol. 23, published October 16, 1982. Tomoyoshi Go, both an idealist and a manga critic, had written a painful critique of Golgo 13's then-recent Story #180, "Polluted Gold" (see note 1). Mr. Go stated that the plot of the story had what he termed a "critical flaw"—namely, that there was no need for Golgo 13 to have appeared in it.

(1.) The full title of the story was actually "Crop Wars—Blade of the Praying Mantis—Polluted Gold."

A beautiful woman in traditional Japanese attire is subjected to many sexually harassing actions while giving a massage to the leader of the Yotsubishi Group in Stories #320 and #328 ("Best Bank" and "Best Bank II," 1993 and 1994). It is very moving to see her bear the pain and the humiliation, never once losing her professional mien.

GOLGO 13 WHAT WAS "THE GOLGO CONTROVERSY"?

• This is where Golgo comes in, and also where Mr. Go took his own first shot. His argument: "Was it really necessary for Golgo to set off the explosives by sniping? There are many other methods available—remote control, and so forth." I nearly fell out of my chair when I read this, valid a point as it may be—is there really a need, after all, to take Golgo to task for his sniping approach to life? Mr. Go did concede, however, that Todo's plan to simulate a nuclear bomb cloud was itself ingenious, regardless of the method used to detonate.

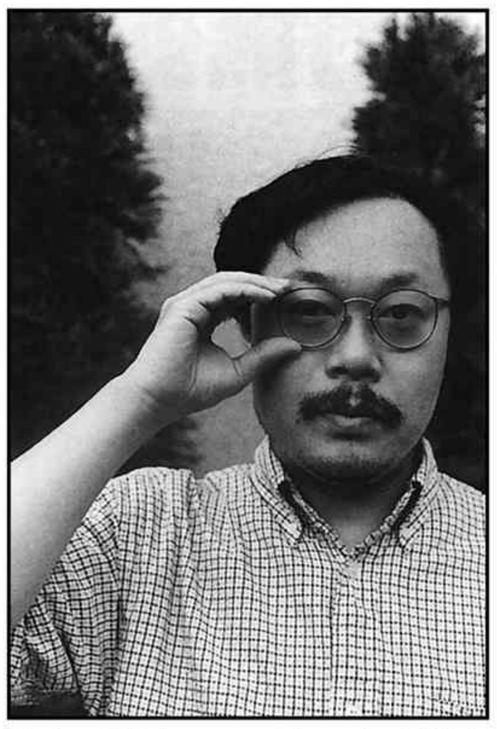
• Then why did Mr. Go insist on making an issue out of this? The reason lies in the second point of his argument, where he evaluated the responses of the readers to the story, rather than the story *per se*. The reason why Mr. Go called those who raved about this episode "stupid," was to follow through with his philosophy that, "Readers have to take some responsibility for what gets published."

• "Polluted Gold" had been regarded by readers as a masterpiece from the moment it appeared in *Big Comic*, which is precisely why Mr. Go chose this occasion to argue that there should be no sealed "sanctuary of debate," but rather that he wished to punch holes in their arguments to allow a "sanctuary of ideals" to breathe. As he says in his book *Medicine For Stupidity*, available through Futabasha, Go will at times take such "idiotic submissions" to task.

• There was some sense to it, but the crusade seems in its own way, well, a little childish. However, debating "with amateurs going ballistic" is part of what makes Tomoyoshi Go Tomoyoshi Go. It even has its charm, which is the secret to Mr. Go's popularity. Of course, I *personally* would like to avoid the charm of ever getting into a debate with him.

• One can see that "The Golgo Controversy" didn't need to be about Golgo at all. *Golgo 13* fans had simply been used as a base upon which to slam down the mighty pillars of Tomoyoshi Go's logic. Being popular can be tough at times. And as *Golgo 13* is still popular in the 21st century, dear readers, doesn't this tale from 1982 remind you of the battles on the Internet today? It was a fitting moment for Golgo, who is always ahead of his time.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S CARRYING GOLD?
...IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT TRAIN...
I'D LIKE YOU TO SNIPE THE TRAIN WHILE IT'S MOVING.
THAT'S NOT SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE. IT'S A SCHEDULED INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT, RUNNING EVERY WEEK FROM MOSCOW TO PARIS.
I CAN SURMISE WHAT THE TRAIN'S CARRYING BASED ON PAST BUSINESS PATTERNS...INSURANCE AND MARKET ACTIVITIES.



Kentaro Takekuma was born in 1960 in Tokyo. Best known in the English-speaking world for his collaboration with Koji Aihara *Even a Monkey Can Draw Manga*, his other works include *Armageddon and I*, and (with Fusanosuke Natsume) *How to Read a Manga*. He works, as so many do, as an editor.

• The title of Mr. Go's critique was, "Readers Are Stupid." You may think, how dare he—but this provocative approach has been Mr. Go's artistic style for many years. I am one who has long been entertained by Mr. Go, who is a self-proclaimed "feudalist," and his manner of writing—but it must be quite another thing to be on the receiving end of his painfully sharp comments.

• The very next issue of Big Comic, following the publication of "Readers Are Stupid," contained rebuttals from those selfsame readers, which led to rebuttals to the rebuttals from Mr. Go, provoking rebuttals to the rebuttals to the rebuttals by the readers—a process that continued until the editor's decision announcing the closure of this debate along with Mr. Go's last rebuttal in February of 1983.

• The plot of "Polluted Gold" (see note 2) involved the revenge of a Japanese businessman, Goichi Todo, who had been taken advantage of by a major grain company. Todo's scheme was to derail a Soviet train containing gold sent to pay for the grain purchase with explosive charges containing magnesium, thereby generating a highly visible mushroom cloud reminiscent of a nuclear detonation. The intended effect was to cause a panic on both the gold and grain markets simultaneously.

Quick fact: Golgo has never once hired a Japanese prostitute.

(2.) Itself a sequel to 1981's Story #176, "Crop Wars—Blade of the Praying Mantis" (the later story added "Polluted Gold" as a distinguishing suffix). Note that Goichi Todo is in fact the same character known as "Mr. Murata" in the English Vol. 03 story, "A Fierce Southern Current." The English-language editor believes the original Japanese version, "Goichi Todo," with the first name recalling "Golgo" and the last "Togo," is very possibly meant to suggest the affinity this "ordinary businessman" (i.e., like the typical reader of *Big Comic*) has for Golgo 13 and his methods—and the irresistible notion of using him to get even when wronged by the "big boys" (a sentiment alluded to in "A Fierce Southern Current").

GOLGO 13 I WISH FOR BEAUTY SUCH AS HIS

Masahiko Katsuya was born in 1960 in Hyogo Prefecture. A columnist, Katsuya has been an active foreign traveler and war correspondent. His works include *Trips, Sometimes War* as well as *The Japanese Statue Experts, To Those Who May Travel, Let's Go to Vietnam*, and (with Rieko Saibara) *Island Voyage: The Jungle*.

• Golgo's roots all lead to before the war. The reason why Golgo was born was to integrate all the contradictions of Japan after the war. If this unknown boy had been a product of postwar Japan, he could have never become Golgo 13 at all. Another point that interests me is that each possible origin story of Golgo presented thus far shows a youth who comes to lose control. He should have used that energy toward doing something righteous...

• Golgo is a man of honor. Honor and duty. Not sympathy, since he has no real emotions. The kanji for honor is itself comprised of the kanji for *I* and *beauty*. He truly lives in beauty; he has no envy, no jealousy. He is stoic; harsh and disciplined to himself above all, and never petty. Despite his wealth and fees, money is not his goal, and he would lose it all to be free. This is not a portrait of the Japanese people today; in fact, it's quite the contrary.

Famous Quote: "Pride is honorable, but when excessive, it is arrogant. It can only turn bitter..." (Special Edition Story #24, "Proud Wine," 1990)

Commentary by International Journalist

Masahiko Katsuya

• Mr. Saito, *Golgo*'s creator, seems to have an interest in old Manchuria (see note 3). I imagine his generation has read a lot of stories of the battles on horseback that, even in the middle of the 20th century, were still symbolic of that land. Saito's contemporary Mitsuteru Yokoyama (1934-2004), [creator of *Giant Robo* and the manga which became the first shojo anime, *Sally the Witch* —*ed. note*], also gave us the masterpiece *The Wolf Constellation*, featuring such actual Japanese riding legends as Shaotonyan and Hakurou Kohyuga. The *Wolf* manga is about the native cultures of the Manchurian region, yet I cannot help but feel the origin of Duke Togo himself must likewise have a connection to those lands, to the Manchu or the Russian people.

• Whenever that era has been portrayed in *Golgo 13*, it is portrayed in a realistic manner. The Japanese soldiers shown in Manchuria are not profiles from the *Asahi Shimbun*, but flesh-and-blood human beings. The details are accurate, and avoid the stereotyping I see in the portrayal of European characters. Think of that era, of the end of the war, when Mr. Saito was 9: the massacres Manchuria saw, the hundreds of thousands of Japanese prisoners of war and orphans, many of whom took several years to return, if they returned at all. *Golgo 13*, I believe, reflects the trauma of that time. In it, the elements which had been suppressed by the Japanese are revealed.

(3.) Manchuria, today the northeasternmost region of the People's Republic of China, was a colony occupied by Japan between 1931 and 1945 (Takao Saito was born in 1936), where its potential for development, as well as its vast steppes, so different from Japan's crowded spaces, attracted an ill-fated generation of Japanese settlers—*ed.*

Conclusion: The Freelancer

• *Golgo 13* contains everything the Japanese are going to need in the world. I've felt like writing a book entitled *Learn Global Standards from Golgo Now*. He has a steady aim, he collects intelligence, he learns languages. He knows how to survive, yet he has a gentleman's reserve. In terms of a lifestyle, my own aim is to live as Golgo does—the ultimate free man. He's good at everything he does. He's a professional, yet broadly studied. He works at one task only, yet he carries a vast amount of knowledge with him. And this is why he can anticipate the course that events will take. People may say he depends on his intuition, but it isn't intuition. It's education.

• *Golgo 13* is a story where bigheaded men are defeated by a vastly knowledgeable freelancer. They try to defeat him with theories, or by analyzing him with computers, but it never works. They lose because the power they try to protect is ultimately based on protecting a limited worldview, one approved by the power holder. A sniper, by definition, sees things from the outside.

• My work as a journalist is conducted the same way. When a job is done, I build upon it with another. I'm not worn down; like Golgo, with every job I get a new charge. This is the ideal of a freelancer: not to be used up, burned out, and thrown away. Travel, research, and reporting energize me. I feel Golgo is the same way. He gains more through doing rather than acquiring.